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8 December 1981

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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LOANS TO LIBYA, UAE DISCUSSED

London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 p 76

[Text]

TWO NEW BORROWINGS by Arab countries have appeared in the euromarkets recently. Both attracted considerable attention, since they were sizeable loans to relatively rare borrowers.

The most newsworthy was the proposed \$200m syndicated credit on behalf of the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company, a new venture designed to handle Libya's foreign investments. Its first foreign borrowing carries the guarantee of the longer-established Libyan Arab Foreign Bank. The terms on the loan — an interest rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over Libor for seven years, with a three-year grace period before principal repayments become due — are competitive. They are especially so considering that the borrower is newly formed and that Libya is not very popular with the US. American banks' lending dominates the euromarkets, and their attitude can significantly affect the terms of the larger international loans.

Five Arab banks are lead managers of the Libyan deal — Arab Banking Corporation, which is also running the books, Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement, Gulf International Bank, Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company and the Ubaif group — together with Bank of Tokyo and Crédit Lyonnais.

The other relatively unusual borrowing is the \$300m credit for Sharjah. More exactly, it is for the ruler, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al Qasimi on his own behalf, and on behalf of the emirate of Sharjah and its dependencies. The sheikh has appeared in the euromarkets before. In 1977, for

example, he raised \$40m as a five-year loan through Grindlay Brandts Limited, and in 1978 raised a substantial \$200m for eight years, in a deal lead managed by BAII (Middle East) Incorporated. This was followed last year by a \$55m borrowing, lead managed by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and guaranteed by the emir of Abu Dhabi. Earlier this year, the sheikh raised a \$55m bridging finance loan for one year through Credit Suisse First Boston. That loan, signed in Sharjah in July, also featured the Arab Investment Company and KFTCIC as lead managers.

The sheikh has not, however, previously raised a loan as large as the present \$300m. The proposed terms on the borrowing are higher than the international average, reflecting the political risk of lending to Sharjah as seen by foreign banks, as well as the relatively large amount involved. The loan is for six years, whereas the average for the syndicated loan market is around eight to eight and a half years, and the spread over Libor is 1 per cent (or twice what the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company proposes to offer its lenders).

Another way of gauging the relatively unfavourable terms on Sharjah's latest loan is by comparison with the terms on its \$200m borrowing in March 1978. The maturity was longer (eight years compared to six this month), and a longer maturity indicates greater confidence on the part of the lender. Also, while the 1 per cent spread paid in 1978 is the same rate as proposed on the latest loan, this must be seen against the sharp decline in spreads over the last three years. A borrower paying a 1 per cent spread three years ago could reasonably expect to pay only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent this year. Sharjah's attractiveness to lenders

has slipped over the period, since it is still paying the same as it did over three years ago.

The bank arranging the borrowing is Credit Suisse First Boston, and the funds are intended to finance capital spending and debt repayments over the next year.

While the Libyan and Sharjah borrowings were capturing much of the attention in the syndicated credit sector of the markets, an equally large transaction was being arranged in the less glamorous area of trade financing. A \$279.5m package, finally signed on 29 October in Bahrain, has been assembled to finance the construction of the housing project at Al Hassa for the national guard of Saudi Arabia.

The package shows how many disparate elements have to be put together to finance a major construction project in the Middle East — and how effectively the euro-markets can provide them. The contractor to the project is the Samho Construction International Company of South Korea, and the first two tranches of the package were guaranteed by the Cho-Heung Bank, one of the leading Korean commercial banks.

Bank of America (Asia) organised the documentation of the deal. Its co-lead managers were Arab African International Bank/Al Baab, Arab Asian Bank, Arab Banking Corporation and Saudi American Bank (which also acted as agent). Most of the other banks involved were also Arab or regional banks, though two French banks also participated.

CSO: 4400/68

ISLAMIC COURT CHARTER DRAWN UP AT CONFERENCE

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 27 Oct 81 p 2

[Text]

JEDDAH, Oct. 26 (SPA) — The International Islamic Court of Justice's charter has been completed here Monday by the committee of experts which concluded a three-day meeting. The final legal draft for the court's charter will be prepared by a committee of technicians.

Habib Chatti, Organization of the Islamic Conference secretary general, who attended the final session, said the session was devoted to completing the Islamic court's charter and determining the next step. The committee agreed to invite technical experts to give the legal touch to the draft.

Chatti added that the experts also agreed to call for a meeting of Islamic ministers of justice in February next year for a final review of the charter. The justice ministers also may make recommendations on the subject to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, which will consider the final draft's approval.

The experts committee, presided over by Pakistan Justice Minister Sharifuddin Pirzadah, began its meetings at the OIC headquarters here Saturday. It has been entrusted to prepare the International Islamic court of justice's charter as recommended by the Third Islamic Summit of Makkah.

On Sunday, the committee proposed that the Islamic court of justice should comprise 11 members. However, the committee made it clear that the judges must be of proven knowledge and morality of the highest order; they must be famous scholars of Islamic jurisprudence; and must have the finest possible qualifications for these posts.

Chatti concluded his statement by saying that the Islamic Court of Justice is a vital project that will have positive results on the relations among Islamic countries.

The Kingdom, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Senegal, Mauritania, Bangladesh and Pakistan form the experts' committee.

CSO: 4400/70

MINISTRY PLANNING IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 8 Nov 81 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Since the victory of the Saur Revolution and its new phase in particular, major steps have been taken towards development of industries in the country. Added facilities have been and are being provided for the industrial plants, both in the public and private sectors, to help them augment their output and improve their efficiency through better management.

In a short span of time, since the victory of the Saur Revolution, and especially its new phase, many new industrial projects have been planned to produce the essential consumer goods and reduce the import of goods, on which considerable amount of hard currency is spent.

The privileges given to national capital-holders and the necessary protection and incentives provided for them have encouraged them to invest in essential projects and thus take an active part in the development of national economy.

The timely and necessary assistance by the DRA Government to the private investors through concerned Government organisations such as the Industrial Development Bank, the Exports Promotion Bank as well as other credit sources have proved very useful to private investors in solving their financial problems.

The provision of huge facilities, under the law pertaining to development of private industries, such as exemption from custom tax and a low custom tax for the import of raw materials and spare parts needed by the private industrial enterprises has proved highly significant and useful for promoting the growth of the private industries and encouragement of local entrepreneurs.

In addition to the Industrial Development Bank, which is directly responsible for measures to help industrial development efforts in the country through provision of easy-

terms loans and technical guidance, other commercial banks in the country such as the Pashtany Tejaraty Bank and Banke Millie Afghan are also rendering valuable services towards the same end.

So far, the services of these banks have been very fruitful in ensuring a smooth flow of raw materials needed by the private industries.

As a result of the timely assistance of the Government and the prompt essential services provided for the industrial plants in the country, both in the private and public sectors, many industrial plants in the country have reported a rise in their production.

Another major factor, which has been responsible for the rise in industrial production, has been improvement in the working conditions for the workers as well as the increment in their salaries. The workers at the industrial plants now work with redoubled interest and devotion and are actively

contributing to the development of industries in the country

In order to create good working relations between the management and the workers, collective agreements are being signed one after another, outlining the responsibilities of the workers and the management towards each other. This important measure is already widely welcomed by the managements and workers of various industrial plants in the country.

The Mines and Industries Ministry, which is looking after the development of industries, has adopted commendable measures aimed at rapid industrial development in the country. Through the efforts of the ministry, a number of industrial plants which had been compelled to close down due to the wrong policies of the past regimes, have been reactivated and other industrial plants have been reporting increases in productions as a result of improved management and added facilities made available by the Government.

In order to ensure the success of any industrial project to be launched in the future, the Mines and Industries Ministry opened the other day a three-week-long workshop of pre-investment studies of industrial projects.

The workshop, held with the assistance of the UNDP in Kabul, will discuss different aspects and the importance of technical and economic feasibility studies of a particular project.

Now that the DRA Government plans to undertake a great number of important industrial projects for the welfare of the people and industrial development of the country, to be drawn by the State Planning Committee, the holding of such workshop under the supervision of the experienced foreign and local experts teams, are certain to play a vital role for launching well-founded and well-studied projects.

Such studies are surely needed to make sure the continued successful operation and development of an industrial project.

INTERESTS PURSUED BY SOVIET UNION IN AFGHANISTAN

Tehran MESSAGE OF REVOLUTION in English No 5, Sep-Oct 81 pp 50-52

[Text] One of the important outcomes of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan is the blow suffered by Marxism and Communism in the Region and the world over.

To challenge the U.S-Chinese influence in Afghanistan, cannot justify nor be the only motive for the Red Army's involvement in the invasion of Afghanistan.

The consequent political isolation of Russia, caused by the Red Army's involvement in Afghanistan, establishes one major conclusion that the Soviet Union have not accepted such a worldwide political set - back only to prevent the U.S - Chinese influence spreading in Afghanistan.

In order to clarify the issue here, we may underline some of the outcomes of the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan:

1 - The Soviet-backed military coup of Afghanistan in April, 1979, followed by Russian troops occupying most parts of that country, have caused the world Conscience to condemn and protest against this act through the international committees and circles.

This Soviet aggression reveals the true motives behind its recent backings for some of the liberation movements, as a mere tactical gesture to secure the Moscow long - term interests in those regions.

Many countries confronted Russia with economic boycotts, the ban on Moscow Olympics and in some cases severing all political relations with Russia. But the majority of regimes in the

southern region of Asia, being either a pro-Moscow regime or a Soviet ally, in addition to the Moscow-backed religious societies and groups, never broke their silence to protest against this tragedy of the twentieth century. They only issued harmless communique in which they never showed any real protest.

On the other hand, what was more important for Moscow was the unsuccessful attempt to gain the favourable attention of other countries which, as a result, the credibility of the Russian political machine had to endure a serious blow in the international scene.

2 - An evaluation of the losses in military personnel and arms in general, would establish the gravity of this military occupation for the Soviet Union. The extent of the damage and the budget allocated to this aggression would simply show an astronomical figure. Every day hundreds of tanks, helicopters, and Super-Sonic fighter jets "MIGS" are being shot down in different regions of Afghanistan. The damage incurred in this way cost the Soviet Union billions of dollars and if the fuel-consumption of this huge war-machine is taken into account, the cost is simply gigantic.

3 - The casualty figures of this two year war for the poor and afflicted people of Afghanistan is reaching the million toll, being the consequence of mass-killings and bombings of the defenceless Afghan urban areas by the Soviet bomber planes. The occupation of Afghanistan has also caused around two million homeless Afghans to emigrate to

Iran and Pakistan. On the Soviet side, a considerable number of military experts and over ten thousand Russian soldiers have been killed. More important, the Soviet Union has had to face a certain degree of discontent and objection in its Red Army towards the Afghan war, symbolized by the sale of various arms and military gadgets by the Russian soldiers. This dissatisfaction in the Russian Army may have alarming effects in future for the Soviet leaders.

4 - Another outcome of this military intervention has been the disturbing impact on Marxism and Communism throughout the world.

It is generally accepted that the best way of judging a doctrine is by examining the acts and deeds of the government employing it. It could clearly be demonstrated by a referendum that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has caused the people in the Region show a much greater degree of hate towards Russians and even more so towards their ideology, i.e., Communism and Marxism.

5 - One of the most important aspects of this Aggression conflict has been the transforming effect it has had on the people of Afghanistan, so that they are not only far less indifferent towards the happenings of their country today, but they have repeatedly declared that the war will be continued until the Moslem regions of the Soviet Union are also liberated. The existence of such an alarming idea amongst the Afghans will be a grave and long-term danger for the Soviet Union. This idea becomes more plausible when one considers the fact that many of the Moslem Afghans have relatives in the Soviet Union and share the same dialect with them, giving weight to the argument that the liberation of the Soviet Moslems at the hands of the revolutionary Afghans, will sooner or later come true.

The points underlined above are a number of outcomes that the Russian military intervention in Afghanistan has had, giving rise to the question; 'What are the ensuing interests sought by Moscow in invading Afghanistan which has cost Russia billions of Dollars and a great number of lives, in addition to being condemned and politically iso-

lated in the international scene?"

It certainly cannot be a mere military presence in Afghanistan; far greater targets are being sought by Kremlin in this aggression. These aims may be classified as follows:

A) - The Natural Resources Of Afghanistan

Taking control and using the rich mineral resources of Afghanistan have always been one of the biggest motives of the Afghan attraction for the Soviet Union.

The greater part of the oil, gas, ruby and cobalt mines in addition to other precious stones and ores like iron, have remained untouched. They have been previously closed and sealed by Russians to be plundered at a later time like now that they have occupied Afghanistan and enjoy a greater degree of legitimacy and security. One example may be the Qandahar's gold mines or the iron mines in the Hadjilak region which is of the best in the world. Also the gas extracted in Afghanistan by the Russians shows an increase of thirty times more than that of the previous year, explaining the presence of the Soviet oil experts working day and night in the Afghan oil and gas fields. Moreover, Afghanistan as a non-industrialized country imports a great deal of goods and products from the Soviet Union, amounting to around 80% of all its imports. But looting the mines and other natural resources of Afghanistan cannot be the only motive for the Soviet military occupation of this country, for the Russians were equally plundering Afghanistan's natural resources before intervening militarily.

B) - Reaching The Warm Coasts Of The South

One of the oldest ambitions of the Soviet's foreign policy has been to find a way to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. Ever since the Persian Gulf became economically the most sensitive area in the world, the Americans dominated this particularly vital region, giving Iran - during the deposed Shah's regime - the role of policing the Area. Consequently Moscow initiated a series of conspiracies and political plots to counteract the American spreading influence in the Region, leading to the eventual Soviet

presence in the Persian Gulf. The Russias had accomplished the previous stage of this plot by destabilizing the south-western parts of Pakistan region.

C) - The Soviet - American race For Expansionism

A look into the history will prove the fact that all the south - Asian countries such as Iran and Afghanistan have often been prone to foreign invasions, especially from their northern neighbouring country, the Soviet Union.

The twentieth century civilization and the advancement of science and technology only resulted in intensification of this expansionist tendency among the "civilized countries" and helped them colonize and exploit other smaller undeveloped countries, by various, more intricate methods. The Soviet Union has not been an exception to this; it has continued violating the rights of, or invading its southern neighbouring countries. Afghanistan is a typical example of the never ending colonial ambitions of Russia.

D) - Confronting The Islamic Revolution In Iran

The Islamic Revolution in Iran has established two important points:

1) - The power of Islam as a revolutionary doctrine was demonstrated.

2) - The practical aspects of Islam were shown, as a religion and "human science," rich and concise enough to provide a nation with rules and principles for its government. So far all the nations on the verge of uprising have looked up to Communism and Marxism for ideological help, but Islam has overshadowed these popular doctrines and is considered in today's world as the only doctrine which is able to generate a revolution. Therefore, by invading Afghanistan, the Russians may use it as a base to block the way to this Islamic Renaissance and at the same time back the Leftists and the pro- Russian groups or political parties in Iran.

E) - Concerning China

Along with the exit of Americans from Vietnam, and the consequent Russian control of Afghanistan and Vietnam, China, "Democratic Republic Of China" "became surrounded by Russia from both the West and the East. The reason was that with Vietnam and Korea becoming impenetrable on the eastern front, China had to turn to the western regions and focus its attention on Laos, India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. The Chinese activities to influence the political systems of the above-named countries, included the backing of the pro-Peking political parties and groups in those countries.

In Ali Bhuto's time, as the Indo - Pakistani conflict intensified, with India a close Russian ally, Pakistan had to call on China for help. The Chinese government gave its military and economic assistance to Pakistan in return of a freeway built by the Chinese from China to the port of Karatschi in the Indian Ocean.

But, at present, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has tightened the circle around China, giving the Russians the opportunity to spreading an intensive cold-war against China.

AFGHANISTAN

WAR VICTIMS, ISLAMIC POLITICAL CURRENTS DESCRIBED

Windhoek ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG in German 20, 21 Oct 81

[Article by Heinz Gstrein: "Afghanistan--Already Lost To Moscow?"]

[20 Oct 81 p 7]

[Text] Post-Victory Shortage of Ammunition

All hell is breaking loose between Muhammad Agha and Kulangar on the morning after the Soviet tank offensive had been repelled. The tanks that had sneaked past on the previous day have returned unexpectedly on a broad front and are invading the sun-drenched villages, where the grape harvest is in full swing.

Led by the serdar and his minibus, everybody is racing toward the threatened region. The Russians are surrounded by forces racing through backyards and alleys. On the narrow country roads, their tanks are vulnerable, even to a partisan armed with a hand grenade. By nightfall their ranks have thinned out considerably. But the Beautiful villages have been devastated and the Mujahedin are beginning to experience a shortage of ammunition.

This is how a force of only 20 tanks is able to cut off the freedom fighters' main force from retreating to its operational and resupply bases. A council of war is held by moonlight in the ruined mosque. Further resistance during daylight hours is out of the question. The only option remaining is a lateral disengagement into the Dubandi Valley which is protected by a ring of antitank mines.

Sidestepping Into a Valley Protected by Mines

Haji Jomaa Gul, who had himself been in charge of planting the mines, is leading the exodus under cover of darkness: in single file, each man following in the footsteps of the man in front of him, they climb the steep mountain and descend again on the far side. Many are barefoot, many others are wounded. This valley basin, lined with walnut trees and containing villages and stately farms is not only a woodcarving center but also the cradle of the Afghan popular uprising.

As long ago as 1978, this was the place where the people, saying "even if we get killed, our sons and grandsons will continue the fight," armed themselves with

rifles, pistols and knives against Taraki's tanks, cannons and airplanes. In two summers they liberated the valley and made it tankproof by 1979. It made an ideal place to retreat to. It appeared to be a place where one could calmly await further developments.

This became all the more important since dysentery had broken out among the troops. Considering the fact that their sole subsistence consisted of green tea and green nuts, the prospects were not very good. The patients were placed in quarantine in a nearby valley. There, in a small chateau owned by Haji Jomaa, they were in real beds and enjoyed acceptable sanitary conditions.

But by noon the message came: move up higher; Russian mountain troops are on the way with bloodhounds, coming across the top of the mountain on the opposite narrow side of the valley.

Flight of the Wounded

The 2-hour march by the column of sick and wounded men to the highest village of the valley basin was still manageable. The formerly lovely village showed the effects of destruction as a result of battles which had been raging here for the last 3 years. And within a few hours the Russians might return once more.

Their powerful Caucasus dogs were trained for obedience to their particular handler and were also trained to retrieve their Red Army master's weapon if he was killed, so as to keep it from falling into partisan hands.

By 0200 hours an urgent order was received for the patients to seek safety by negotiating a steep slope of some 600 meters. In the next valley, the order said, two trucks were ready to transport them toward the Afghan-Pakistani border. But that was easier said than done. Those who were simply unable to continue were dragged along by their magnificent Afghan comrades on their walking sticks. Without this flash of inspiration by the column leader, Nassir Ahmat, the whole "hospital" would have fallen into Russian hands. That would have meant death by firing squad or even more cruel kinds of execution.

Partisan Leader and Family in Hannover

Nassir Ahmat was one of those typical partisan personalities each of whom has his own reasons for being anticommunist. He came from a wealthy family in Herat and had come to Germany for a higher education at the age of 22. He remained in Hannover where he had a job, got married and took delight in his young son. In 1979, disquieting rumors about the fate of his family caused him to return home for what he thought would be a brief visit.

He found his father in a mass grave hastily dug by Amin's henchmen; two brothers had been murdered and his mother and sister were in hiding with the underground. His passport was confiscated immediately upon his arrival in Afghanistan. There was nothing else for Nassir to do but to join the resistance where he has since distinguished himself on all fronts.

With his glowing patriotism and his European experience, he spent many of his sleepless nights reading Nietzsche's "Thus Spake Zarathustra", like the German infantrymen of World War I, and amazed people with the depth of his philosophical thinking. People like him are not only able to fight for the liberation of Afghanistan, but also to govern it better than did yesterday's feudal overlords and today's "Popular Democrats."

Saved in Pakistan

After the terrible march across the mountain the sick men, imbued with new hope, hobbled toward a rutted road where two trucks were indeed waiting. The partisans really demonstrate amazing organizational talents in the areas they control.

But the journey ended again a few hours later, since here too Russian airborne units had regained control of the last piece of road before the Pakistani border. First they had to await darkness. Then they continued on a mountain road with mules and donkeys. And even there the column was fired upon by the communists who tried to block their last escape route to the Kurram Pass. They had to climb still higher, being overtaken by this fall's first icy blizzard. But with his circumspection, Nassir Ahmat managed to bring the entire group safely across the Kurram Pass into Parahinar in Pakistan. Without exception, they fell off their mounts, more dead than alive with pain and exhaustion.

[21 Oct 81 p 5]

[Text] Isolated Russian Fortifications

One who has spent 3 weeks with the Afghan partisans in the country's southeastern third and has even entered the capital of Kabul, gains a strong impression that the Russians have already lost Afghanistan. Their fall offensive has to date resulted only in small improvements to their fortified positions which partly lie in the middle of liberated areas and can be resupplied only from the air.

Air superiority is about the only thing left to the Red Army toward the end of this second period in the fighting since their intervention which was designed to suppress the national-communist and increasingly Peking-oriented "Chalk" and to aid Babrak Karmal's Moscow-oriented "Partchamis." Pakistan, which otherwise assumes the role of middleman for weapons of all sorts coming from Eastern non-Soviet sources, has to date failed to supply the Mojahedin with either the SAM-7 (which the Palestinians have had at their disposal for a long time) nor with any other effective antiaircraft weapons.

Moscow's Expectations Are Not Coming True

Islamabad is not showing any interest in a strong Afghanistan, be it pro-Soviet or pro-West. A strong Afghanistan could make claims upon border areas as far as the Indus, inhabited by the Pashtunis--an area which the Pakistani military can only now occupy with the excuse of the Soviet presence beyond the border.

What Zia Ul-Haq would dearly love to see on the other hand is a stalemate between the Russians and the partisans and thereby the exclusion of a torn-up neighboring country as a potential, nationally motivated aggressor at his long northwest border and in Baluchistan. There too the old separatist movements appears to be showing new life in opposing the rigid Islamic and altogether quite brutal military regime.

But even at that it is quite possible that the Russians will either finally lose the next round of fighting in the summer of 1982 or that they will seek a political solution of the Afghanistan problem even before then. Local observation would seem to militate against the theory that the Kremlin in its Kabul adventure mainly intended to establish for itself a springboard toward the Gulf and the Indian subcontinent. As far as the Russians original intentions are concerned, it is much more likely that there was a parallel with Czechoslovakia in August 1968. Moscow evidently thought that by means of a short-term military intervention it could eliminate the increasingly dangerous Dubcek-equivalent Amin, which would have resulted in Husak--equivalent Karmal becoming master of the situation within a few months. But these expectations came to naught because of the the severe patriotic resistance on the part of almost the entire Afghan population and because of the surprisingly poor military and political showing by the Partcham communists.

Karmal and the Russians will have lost the game at the latest with the fall of Kabul, which is already largely dominated by small fighting units, urban guerillas and kidnap teams, and with the formation of a national Afghan government in the capital. Therefore the political leaders of the resistance are already today giving consideration to the problems of a post-Soviet era which may not be all that far in the future. Fortunately there are many who feel that absolutely nothing would be gained by replacing the Bolshevik dictatorship with a fanatical Khomeyni-style Islamic tyranny.

Islamic Currents

But a Khomeyni-like trend is followed by the best-armed and most numerous, but militarily undistinguished group: the socalled "Hizbi Islami" or Islamic Party. This movement had been present in Afghanistan long before the Russians came (and even prior to the communist takeover in 1978) under the last kind and umbrella movement of all traditionally religiously oriented forces, grouped around the Mujadidi family, headed by the top Islamic authority: Hazret Sebghatullah Mujadidi.

But as a party organization the Hizbi Islami was unilaterally oriented toward Tehran. Gulbeddin Hekmatijar pushed the Mujadidis out, whereupon they founded their own respected and influential but militarily ineffective movement. According to the lip service of its leaders recently given in the mosque of Peshawar, Pakistan, there is agreement on Hizbi's strict re-Islamization program between themselves and the Djamat Islamia and the otherwise most liberal Harakat-i-Inquilab-i-Islami Afghanistan. Finally, the nationalist resistance wing, which does not care for the mullahs' pervasive interference, was outlawed. A parallel "djirga" (assembly) by the nationalists did likewise to the

Islamic fundamentalists. Fortunately this tilting at windmills on the part of the bigshots in exile in Peshawar does not by any means cause the resistance in the home country, and especially on the fighting front, to fall apart.

Cologne-Trained Scientist As A Centrist Force

Behind Peshawar's green Islam scenery other forces are at work. At their center is Cologne-trained lawyer and economist Dr Azizullah Ludin, political adviser of highly respected Harakat chief Maulana Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi. He has a certificate recognizing him as the coordinator between Harakat, the followers of the Mujajis, the National Front of Ahmad Gilani, and 66 smaller militant groups in the Herat area where his family has its roots. Dr Ludin's objective is to secure for the Afghan intelligentsia and middle class, which are equally threatened by communist doctrine spouters and Islamic fundamentalists, the leadership of a truly modern, open and, for the first time, Western-oriented Afghanistan of tomorrow. The Harakat, with its motto of "moderation in all things," probably has the best chances of becoming a catalyst for a future government coalition in Kabul. Even the two wings of the "Communist Democratic People's Party" should not be excluded from this after the Russians' departure.

Inasmuch as the Harakat's holy warriors are the only ones who are already firmly established in the capital, they will be, at the proper time, the first ones to have their say in the formation of a new, free Afghan government in Kabul. This Afghan centrist party, which is based on the prerevolutionary "Cabi Milli," is therefore likely to become the Afghan party of the future in case of a political solution or after the downfall of the Soviet occupation regime.

9273

CSO: 4620/7

COMMANDO UNIT PRAISED FOR SUCCESSES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Nov 81 p 3

[Text] It seems to a casual visitor that the Rishkhor valley with its beautiful autumn touched foliage, quiet small houses and accurate peasants' plots under the trees is a sleep in a hollow, tightly encircled by brownish bald mountains.

But the first impression is delusive—this valley is the seat and base of the redoubtable 37th Commando Brigade, the best commando unit of the National Afghan Army, redoubtable to the enemies of the glorious Saur Revolution, of course.

Perhaps, the best proof of the brigade's combat ability, its high level of training is an instruction, circulated among the bands of the counter-revolutionary scum in many a region of the country by their superiors in Pakistan. "When commandos are closing in on you", it says, "you better retreat". But as usual, the commando thrust is so fast, the attack is so unexpected that there is no time left for retreat, only for a stampede panicked flight.

Despite the fact that the main task of the brigade is to secure the peaceful life

of the capital and the regions around Kabul, the commandos are always ready to leave on orders for practically any destination in the country when an emergency arises anywhere. During the last seven months the brigade took part in 13 major military operations in the provinces of Paktia, Kandahar, Paktika, Logar, Wardak, Kapisa and Parwan. In other words—in half Afghanistan.

The most difficult operation was realised in Ghazni province, where the bands of the so-called Major Mohammad Hassan, who deserted the army long before, were for quite a time controlling the five gorges, leading to Hazarajat.

The gorges were heavily mined, kept under constant watch and criss-crossed fire by different types of heavy weapons. The headquarters of the band were on the Balboul mountain 3,500 meters high and hidden. The helicopter-borne commando force was swiftly landed on the mountain's slopes and the lightning attack followed under the command of Colonel

Abdul Azim. Many bandits were liquidated, piles of weapons, money and important documents were captured, including a "decree" of the military council of the notorious "Hezbe Islami" party, which bestowed upon the fugitive Major the rank of "general" and a sum of 200,000 Afghanis to celebrate the occasion. As for the "general" himself, he saved his life in the most inappropriate manner for a high ranking officer, abandoning the battlefield hastily.

Another big operation, the brigade participated in, was launched in the Panjsher, the "Tiger's paw" valley. It is a very long and narrow valley with practically all areas under heavy fire from the mountains surrounding it. After prolonged fighting, the bandits here were successfully annihilated, but the valley itself was found empty, without the slightest trace of local population. They were discovered later high in the mountains' caves.

TO THE VALLEY

Col Azim's brigade alone brought down to the valley 10,000 old people, women

and children, who were suffering from lack of food, medicine, clothes, even shrouds to bury their dead. The bandits had told the people that after the "Communists" and "infidels" come, everybody will be tortured and killed. On the contrary, when the DRA troops arrived, every simple person among these mistreated people was given food. On their return home at spontaneous mass meetings all these people, therefore, paid their deep respect and showed gratitude to the Soldiers of the Revolution.

"I consider the military successes of the brigade", says its commander, Colonel Abdul Azim, "as determined by three decisive factors. First of all, we have a strong and able party organisation, which directs all the political education of our soldiers, teaches them the heroic fulfilment of their main duty—the defence of the Saur Revolution, its achievements, but at the service of the toiling people of Afghanistan. The second one is a high level of combat readiness, a fruit of hard, everyday training. And the third factor", (the Colonel smiles) "is the mere fact that the soldiers do not like to sit in barracks at the time when in different parts of their country the counter-revolutionaries are sowing death and violence among the peaceful people whose only dream is to live a secure life, to toil their plots, to work in mills and plants. I would call it the high degree of con-

sciousness, the feeling of involvement of each with the life of the whole country in its happy as well as hard times."

The colonel has the reputation of an imaginative and hard-working officer, proud of 26 years of the military experience. He is the first ever parachute jumper in Afghanistan, a professional paratrooper, a party member from many years ago. Many Government decorations were bestowed on him for his valour and good service but he is especially proud of the Red Banner, which was handed to him recently by Babrak Karmal himself.

"I am quite satisfied with success. And I am very happy that I was able to contribute a little bit to the cause of our revolution, to the building of a new revolutionary army capable of defending my country against the external aggression."

The brigade is obviously following the example of their commander. There is a room of military glory in the brigades new headquarters. Piles of trophies, taken in the battlefields, are the natural decoration of its walls: the American, Chinese, Egyptian, British and Pakistani weapons here are nothing but a grave and detailed account of the real scale of international conspiracy, knocked together by the imperialist, hegemonist and reactionary forces in order to stifle the Saur Revolution.

But, at the same time, this room is evidence of the determination of the Afghan people and its army to frustrate this conspiracy,

to crush the counter-revolutionary bandit formations and to bring to the holy land of Afghanistan peace, security and prosperity. And this trend is irreversible.

CSO: 4600/131

BAKHTAR AIRLINES INCREASES FLIGHTS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Nov 81 p 3

[Text] "In the first six months of the current Afghan year, the Bakhtar Afghan Airlines has recorded a total income of Afs 57,070,810 from the sale of tickets and transportation of freights and goods. During the same period, it has carried 51,591 passengers and 300,627 kgs of goods to various provinces."

This was stated by Col Abdul Latif Lakanwal, President of the Bakhtar Afghan Airlines, to our reporter on the activity, methods of work, the volume of income, the number of passengers and goods carried, as well as on scheduled and non-scheduled flights of the airlines.

"Presently, said Col Lakanwal, "the Bakhtar Airlines has a seven-plane fleet, of which three are ready to fly to the Soviet Union for technical check up and another one is grounded at the Kabul airport due to lack of essential parts. As soon as the parts are made available, it will become serviceable. Another three planes are active. To ensure the smooth operation of the airlines, two AN-26 planes are borrowed from the DRA Air Force."

"Under the present conditions", he added, "when hundreds of people throng the booking office for tickets and reservation, the names of ordinary travellers are registered on a list on the first flight. However, for Government officials and employees, tickets are issued for the first available flight on the basis of official letters brought from their respective organisations."

"The Bakhtar Airlines has increased the number of its flights compared to previous Afghan year 1359 so that our compatriots who wish travel from one province to another can do so without difficulty", he said.

"Unlike last year, the Bakhtar Airlines has introduced this year a few flights a week to Lashkargah, Farah and Jalalabad which has helped people greatly as far as air transportation to these areas is concerned. The Bakhtar Airlines has its ticketing offices in each province it serves."

Under the programme, the airline's scheduled flights are as follows:

Kabul-Jalalabad-Kabul, two flights a week,
Kabul-Khust-Kabul, three

flights a week.

Kabul-Cheghcharan - Kabul, two flights a week.

Kabul-Mazare Sharif Kabul, two flights a week,

Kabul-Kandahar-Farah - Kabul, two flights a week.

Kabul-Kunduz-Kabul, two flights a week.

Kabul-Faizabad-Kabul, two flights a week.

Kabul-Kandahar-Trinkoot-Kandahar-Kabul, two flights a week.

Kabul-Mazare Sharif-Herat-Mazare Sharif-Kabul, three flights a week.

Kabul-Mazar — Maimana-Mazar-Kabul, one flight a week.

Kabul-Bamiyan-Kabul, three flights a week.

Kabul-Urgoon-Kabul, two flights a week.

Kabul-Gardez-Kabul, one flight a week.

Kabul-Cheghcharan - Herat-Qalai Nau-Herat - Cheghcharan-Kabul, one flight a week.

Kabul-Kandahar- Lashkargah-Kandahar, Kabul, one flight a week.

In addition to scheduled flights, the Bakhtar Airlines also has special flights from time to time to take care of the heavy booking for passengers and freights..

"The Bakhtar Airlines", said Col Lakanwal, "has an adequate number of planes, technical and administrative personnel, and, in view of its financial conditions, the airlines envisages no immediate development plan except it plans to introduce a weekly flight from Kabul to Zaranj via Kandahar."

"The airline is a non-profitable organisation and it is subsidised by the Government. Due to financial difficulties and the rise in the price of petroleum, the company was compelled to increase its fares by 20 per cent about three months ago.

In 1359 the net incomes of the Airlines was Afs 38,847,220 and its net loss

Afs 47,240,196, which clearly indicates its poor financial position", he noted. "However, the total income in the first months of 1359 was Afs 16 million and of the same period it has amounted to Afs. 37,070,810, which shows an increase of Afs. 21,070,810 which is attributable to purchase of two AN-24 with a seating capacity of 52 and 20 per cent hike in the fares of tickets and increasing rise in the number of passengers", he said.

CSO: 4600/131

KABUL TO GET POLYCLINIC, BLOOD BANK COMPLEX

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 22 Oct 81 p 3

[Text]

The cornerstone of the central polyclinic and the blood bank complex was laid by the Public Health Minister, Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Azim, at the vicinity of the Pamir Cinema recently.

In an interview with the Kabul New Times, the president of the planning department of the Public Health Ministry, Dr Nesar Ali Nesar, said that the cooperation of the Soviet Union in construction of the two useful and urgent projects is another effective step taken in further strengthening ties between the peoples of the two fraternal and friendly countries.

Dr Nesar added that the central polyclinic and the blood bank projects have been undertaken for supplying better health services, particularly supply of blood needed by the patients.

The public welfare projects are scheduled to be completed in two years by the Afghan Construction Units, covering 18,000 square metres. The site for the buildings will cover 5,400 square metres. The polycli-

nic will have a capacity for 600 patients daily and the blood bank a capacity for 4,000 to 6,000 litres blood annually. The modern central polyclinic will be built in three stories with different wards providing updated services according to the requirements of the day. Similarly, the central blood bank will provide necessary facilities in the processing, preservation and distribution of blood to the patients. The five-story building of the blood bank will be equipped with all modern facilities.

The president of the planning department of the Public Health Ministry said that on the basis of a separate contract concluded with the friendly Soviet Union, the USSR has put at the disposal of the Afghan side 9,000,000 roubles under easy and favourable conditions for building these two projects and the Kunduz hospital. The local currency expenditures of the two projects will be financed from the Government development budget and the foreign exchange expenditures will be financed through the friendly Soviet Union's credit.

The total expenditure for the central polyclinic has been estimated at \$3.3 million and afs 70 million, and the expenses for construct-

on and equipment of the blood bank at 3.3 million dollars and afs 50 million. The expenses for the preliminary survey, design, preparing of the blue prints and construction materials not available in the country and the expenses of the experts working on the two projects will be financed by the Soviet credit.

Dr Nesar added that to further expand the scope of curative medicines in the country and create secure conditions for rendering health services to the people of the country, construction of specialized regional and provincial hospitals, basic and sub-health centres, polyclinics and training institutions for providing health services, particularly to the villagers are envisaged with due consideration of the Government's financial capabilities.

Likewise, based on the new division of the Kabul city precincts, construction of modern and well-equipped polyclinics are taken into

consideration in the future plan of the Public Health Ministry keeping in mind the area and the population of the regions so that complete free health services are made available to the people.

CSO: 4600/133

AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN ENDS VISIT

LD172246 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Karl Blesha, deputy chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party, left Algiers today after a 4-day visit to Algeria.

During his visit to Algeria Karl Blesha held talks with a number of prominent state and party officials. The talks dealt with the ways of bolstering bilateral relations.

A joint Algerian-Austrian statement was issued today following the official visit of the Austrian Socialist Party delegation to Algeria. The statement said that the Austrian delegation held a series of talks with the FLN delegation headed by Brother Silmane Hoffman, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the party's external relations committee.

The statement remarked that the talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, and explained that the talks dealt with the study of bilateral relations and the international situation. The two delegations exchanged information regarding party activities on the national and international levels and examined possibilities of extending and bolstering bilateral cooperation. The statement added that the two delegations expressed their preoccupation with the dangerous tension in the world situation which is distinguished by violating people's rights of independence, the continuation of imperialism with the policy of aggression, interference in countries' internal affairs and the creation of areas of tension and crises in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The two delegations firmly stressed their adherence to the national independence and territorial unity of every country, and to safeguarding the sovereignty and the right of every people to free self-determination. The two delegations considered, on the basis of their preoccupation with the development of the situation in the Mediterranean, that any foreign interference is a threat to peace in the region and in the world. The two sides stressed that European security is part and parcel of the security of the Mediterranean. They also expressed their determination to expend all efforts to safeguard the conditions of security in the Mediterranean basis and consequently struggle for dismantling foreign bases and the evacuation of the foreign fleets from the region.

Regarding the analysis of the prevalent situation in Western Europe, the two delegations expressed their satisfaction about the opportunities which have opened after the march of the progressive, democratic forces and the progress which they realized

for their peoples. The two delegations strongly denounced, regarding the situation in the Middle East, all political attempts which ignore the permanent rights of the Palestinian people, they once again stressed their absolute solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, its sole legitimate representative. The two delegations also denounced the repeated aggressions against Lebanon and the ploys which are aimed at harming the territorial unity of the Lebanese state. On studying the development of the struggle of the peoples who are still suffering under the domination of colonialism, the two sides recorded with satisfaction the victories which were achieved by the liberation movements in their heroic struggle against colonialism.

On analyzing the prevailing situation in Africa, the Saharan problem and the issue of liquidating colonialism, they expressed the view that peace in the region will not be achieved without the recognition of the right of the Saharan people of self-determination. They called on Morocco and the Polisario Front to enter direct negotiations in order to reach an agreement which would (?serve) the higher interests of their two peoples. The two delegations examined the situation in the southern part of the African continent, Latin America and the international economic situation and the north-south dialogue.

CSO: 4504/91

ALGERIA

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH NETHERLANDS--Algiers--Mr Bouzid Hammiche, secretary general at the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform, signed last Monday a draft agreement on cooperation, thus setting a seal on the visit to Algeria by a delegation from the Dutch ministry of agriculture and fisheries led by the Dutch deputy minister of agriculture, Mr Zeeuw. The draft cooperation agreement provides for the promotion and development of relations and exchanges between the two countries in the agricultural and agroindustrial sphere as well as for the setting up of a working group to study and realize all possibilities of cooperation in the agricultural and irrigation spheres. With this end in mind, the working group is to analyze sectors in which such cooperation can be most beneficial for both countries. With a view to achieving these objectives, the group will be mainly entrusted with the task of outlining cooperation programs and projects, encouraging consultations with respect to training and technical aid, and supporting and directing activities aimed at achieving these objectives. [APS report: "New Prospects for Algerian-Dutch Relations"] [Text] [PMI61217 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Nov 81 p 14]

CSO: 4519/47

NEW MINISTERIAL COMMITTEES FORMED

Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic No 318, 16 Oct 81 p 12

[Article: "Ministerial Committees"]

[Excerpt] Ministerial Committee for Environmental Affairs Under Chairmanship of Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din:

President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree forming the Ministerial Committee for Environmental Affairs under the chairmanship of the first deputy prime minister and with the following members:

1. The minister of state for education and scientific research.
2. The minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation.
3. The minister of state for manpower and training.
4. The minister of transportation, communications and maritime transport.
5. The minister of state for agriculture and food security.
6. The minister of irrigation and minister of state for Sudan affairs.
7. The minister of tourism and civil aviation.
8. The minister of state for health.
9. The minister of industry and mineral resources.
10. The minister of electricity and energy.

The decree makes it clear that the committee may invite to its meetings whomever it deems necessary to attend such meetings. The decree also stipulates that the committee shall carry out the following responsibilities:

1. Draw up the national policy for protecting, improving and safeguarding the environment.
2. Review the legislation in force for environmental protection with the aim of linking such legislation with the current local conditions and propose and prepare the legislation necessary to meet this goal in order to preserve the cultural character and to realize the goals of national development in the agricultural, industrial, construction, social and health spheres.

3. Draw up a policy that guarantees coordination between the efforts of the local organizations and the similar foreign organizations to insure dealing with the problems of pollution.

4. Determine the tasks and responsibilities of the ministries, organizations and authorities in charge of implementing and following up the various legislation connected with environmental protection.

A technical secretariat shall be formed for the Ministerial Committee for Environmental Affairs. This secretariat shall be under the control of the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers and shall have a secretary general who will be appointed on a decision by the prime minister from among prominent specialists in environmental affairs.

Higher Committee for Green Revolution and Food Security:

President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree forming the Higher Ministerial Committee for the Green Revolution and Food Security under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din and with the following as members:

Engineer Hasaballah Muhammad al-Kafrawi, the minister of reconstruction and minister of state for agriculture and food security.

Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi Samahah, the minister of irrigation and minister of state for Sudan affairs.

Dr Mamduh Kamal Jabr, the minister of state for health.

Engineer Muhammad Mahir Muhammad 'Uthman Abazah, the minister of electricity and energy.

Ahmad Nuh, the minister of supply and internal trade.

Fu'ad Kamal Husayn, the minister of state for finance.

Sa'd Muhammad al-Sharbini, the minister of state for popular development.

The minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation shall be this committee's rapporteur.

The committee referred to in article one of this decree [sic] shall have the power to discuss and follow up all the issues and projects pertaining to the green revolution and food security. In particular, the committee shall:

1. Set priorities for the land reclamation projects according to the nature and productivity of the land and the costs of reclamation.

2. Determine the methods for the ideal use of the available financial resources, both in [the projects for] the currently cultivated lands and the lands to be reclaimed to as to insure use of the available financial resources according to the requirements of agricultural and economic utilization.

3. Guarantee the soundness of the reclamation projects carried out by the local governments in terms of the suitability, priority and feasibility of such projects.
4. Approve the programs necessary to develop the land reclamation and agricultural companies and to overcome the financing difficulties facing the private sector in implementing projects and create adequate incentives to encourage the local and foreign private sector to enter into the fields of land reclamation.
5. Establish the policy for disposing of lands reclaimed.
6. Review the programs of the ministries concerned with constructing the infrastructure facilities and coordinate these programs in a manner that serves the goals of implementing the land reclamation projects.
7. Plan agricultural production in a manner compatible with the food commodity consumption needs.
8. Discuss the programs necessary to realize food security, including the programs to expand the cultivated area and improve the methods adopted in agriculture and in agro-industry.
9. Draw up the general framework for the popular development plans and the priorities for the implementation of their programs, coordinate the projects of the various sectors in the fields of popular development and propose the legislation and the best organizational, administrative and financing methods that make it possible to realize the state's policy in this regard.

Nine Tasks for Ministerial Production Committee Included in Presidential Decree Forming Committees:

President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree forming the Ministerial Production Committee as follows:

The deputy prime minister for production and the minister of petroleum as chairman.

1. The minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation;
2. The minister of state for agriculture and food security;
3. The minister of transportation, communications and maritime transport;
4. The minister of irrigation and minister of state for Sudan affairs;
5. The minister of industry and mineral resources;
6. The minister of electricity and energy;
7. The minister of state for war production;

8. The minister of state for economy;
 9. The minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs concerning the production sector [as members].
- The decree stipulates that the Ministerial Production Committee shall have the following powers:
1. Examine and make decisions on the common issues involving the ministries concerned with a certain sector.
 2. Discuss the production sectors' development strategies in light of the national strategy.
 3. Discuss the policies and plans of both the commodity and the service parts of the production sector in accordance with the national plan's goals.
 4. Study the components [of production] and determine production goals; discuss the complete plan for the production goals and the means to realize them; follow up implementation of the plan and propose suitable policies to overcome the problems of [word unintelligible].
 5. Study the industrial and agricultural production plan and the sector's [sic] goals in the field to meet the consumption and exportation needs and to establish a balance between the production volume and the quantities that need to be imported so as to realize soundness in the national economy.
 6. Discuss the means to link scientific research with the needs of industry and agriculture, considering that this research is a means to enhance the level of performance and to establish the best methods; streamline operations in the various production sectors; study the means to use scientific and applied research for increased productivity, both qualitatively and quantitatively; make use of modern studies and scientific and technological means and exert efforts to transfer them to the fields of production with the aim of bolstering economic and social development.
 7. Discuss the plan to provide the skilled manpower needed for the production installations either by developing and enhancing the technical education capacity or by training.
 8. Study the problems of the public sector and of the public organizations connected with the committee's work.
 9. Discuss the legislation and the regulatory bylaws governing work in the sector's ministries and propose new legislation and bylaws that enable the sector to enhance its performance and to realize its goals.

The decree also stipulates that the committee may form from among its members and others a subcommittee or subcommittees to be entrusted with some of the powers stipulated in the preceding article. The committee may also invite to its meetings whomever it deems fit to invite.

Services Committee Draws Up Service Sector's Plans and Studies Problems of Implementation:

President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree forming the Ministerial Services Committee under the chairmanship of the deputy prime minister for services and the minister of interior and commissioning the following as members:

1. The minister of state for education and scientific research.
2. The minister of social insurance and minister of state for social affairs.
3. The minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation.
4. The minister of state for manpower and training.
5. The minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs concerned with the services sector.
6. The minister of state for health.
7. The minister of state for finance.
9. [no 8] The minister of state for culture.

The decree stipulates that the Ministerial Services Committee shall exercise the following powers:

1. Discuss the policies and plans of the services sector's ministries and coordinate between them so as to draw up a complete services plan at the national level. Study the problems of implementation and propose solutions for them.
2. Study the means necessary to organize the government apparatus, to simplify procedures and to enhance performance in the service agencies and departments, especially the performance of those connected with the needs of the masses and with the masses' dealings with the government agencies.
3. Discuss the legislation and the regulatory bylaws governing work in the sector's ministries so as to enable the sector to realize its goals.
4. Determine the goals of social development and the means to realize them and coordinate the policies of the ministries and agencies concerned.
5. Discuss the complete plan to develop spiritual values and religious behavior in their capacity as one of the fundamental mainstays of society's progress.
6. Discuss the policy of higher and general education in all its stages to insure that education is linked with the environment so as to meet society's needs.

7. Study the short and long-term manpower needs of the government agencies, the public authorities, the local administrative units, the public sector and the private sector and discuss the means to provide the manpower needed to meet the estimated requirements in accordance with the national economic and social development plan. This includes studying the national training policy.
 8. Study and discuss the national policy for illiteracy eradication and for adult education in participation with popular and unionist organizations.
 9. Study youth problems and activities to insure enhancing the youth's performance capability in the various spheres of youth activity and draw up a plan to fully exploit youth capability in serving society.
 10. Study the means of family planning, of enhancing the family and of helping it to develop its own resources through environmental service projects by advancing aid to the family and by providing it with the means of training and education.
 11. Study and determine an information and cultural policy compatible with society's values and with the requirements of development.
 12. Approve a general policy for the welfare of migrant agricultural workers, for providing them with work, for providing them and their families with social, health and cultural care and for protecting them from material and moral exploitation.
- Tasks of Economic and Financial Committee Are to Draw Up Policies That Realize Economic Balance:**
- President Husni Mubarak has also issued a decree forming the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs under the chairmanship of the deputy prime minister for economic and financial affairs and with the following as members:
1. The minister of social insurance and minister of state for social affairs.
 2. The minister of state for agriculture and food security.
 3. The minister of industry and mineral resources.
 4. The minister of supply and internal trade.
 5. The minister of state for finance.
 6. The minister of state for economy.
 7. The minister of state for popular development.
 8. The minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs concerned with the economic and financial affairs sector.
 9. The governor of the Central Bank.

The decree stipulates that the committee shall carry out the following tasks:

Study the bases of the state's general budget and of the currency budget.

Formulate financial, economic and currency policies that realize an internal and external economic balance and achieve the targeted economic growth rates.

Follow up implementation of the open-door economic policy and propose the solutions necessary to overcome the obstacles facing implementation.

Follow up implementation of foreign loans and aid, exert efforts to employ these loans and aid without any obstacles and propose the solutions needed to overcome the obstacles facing them.

Express its views on the bills for tax exemptions and exemptions from customs fees.

Task of Legislative Committee Is to Develop Legislation So That It May Keep up With Goals of Democratic Socialist Society:

President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree forming the Ministerial Legislative Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of the minister of justice and with the following as members:

1. Minister of State Albert Barsum Salamah.
2. Dr Amal 'Abd al-Rahim 'Uthman, the minister of social insurance and minister of state for social affairs.
3. 'Abd al-Akhir Muhammad 'Abd al-Akhir, the minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.
4. Dr Zakariya al-Barri, the minister of al-awqaf [religious trusts].
5. Mukhtar Hasan Salim Hani, the minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.
6. The chairman of the State Council.

Any of the ministers may attend the committee's meetings when such meetings discuss issues connected with the activities of his ministry.

The committee may also form subcommittees from among its members and from any members of the judiciary and of the university teaching faculties whose help it decides to enlist.

The committee shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Formulate a plan for the studies connected with developing and coordinating the legislation in a manner compatible with the state's general policy and with the goals of the democratic socialist society as determined by the constitution and propose the bills and bylaws that realize this goal.

2. Prepare and review draft laws complementing the constitution.
3. Review the bills submitted by the prime minister and the ministers after they are completely and objectively studied by the ministerial committee concerned with the activity governed by the bill and after the legislation section of the State Council approves the legal phrasing of the bill so that consideration may be given to putting such bills within the framework of the sound constitutional and legislative principles and so that they may be coordinated with other legislation.
4. Review the draft organizational decrees issued by the president of the republic, the Council of Ministers and the prime minister.
5. Review the draft international agreements.
6. Discuss the issues that any of the other ministerial committees may ask this committee to discuss from the legislative angle.

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NEW CITY BEING CONSTRUCTED IN CAIRO GOVERNORATE

Cairo MAYU in Arabic No 32, 5 Oct 81 p 12

[Article: "Al-Salam City in al-Birkah Land, Cairo Governorate, Is Biggest Housing Project Constructed in Republic in Record Time; Sa'd Ma'mun, Governor of Cairo: City With Full Facilities and Services on Area of 2,500 Feddans to Accommodate 75,000 Housing Units With Population of 375,000 People and Costing 400 Million Pounds' Completed First Phase Includes 15,226 Housing Units and Population of 75,000 People; Green Area Equal to 40 Percent of City Area; Public Transportation Links City Which Is 25 Kilometers from al-Tahrir Square, 11 Kilometers From Heliopolis and 8 Kilometers From 'Ayn Shams"]

[Text] The resolutions and recommendations of the second congress of the Democratic National Party, announced by Husni Mubarak, the vice president and the party secretary general, after broad discussions in which the party secretary general, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers and 4,000 leaders and members of the party participated, include this important recommendation in the sphere of housing and reconstruction: "The local government agencies must expedite the studies and plans for the present communities to guarantee guided and directed extension so that public utility projects may be drawn up in accordance with a specific program that insures the ideal use of land. The local agencies must also strengthen and bolster the technical outfits in the governorates."

Complete City

The fact is that what we have seen in al-Salam City in al-Birkah, Cairo Governorate, reaffirms this important recommendation. The governorate has drawn up plans and designs for the construction of a complete city on the Cairo-Ismailia Highway to accommodate 75,000 housing units. The site was cleared of encroachments, levelled and prepared and the actual work started in April 1980 for the construction of the first phase of the city which will include 15,226 housing units with their utilities and services.

Sixty Million Pounds

Sa'd Ma'mun, the governor of Cairo said: "In 1980, the state supplied Cairo Governorate with appropriations of 60 million pounds. Thus, the governorate's appropriations rose from 7 million pounds and 9 million pounds in the 3 preceding years [sic] to 60 million pounds in 1980. The governorate began immediately

preparing plans to use this sum in the construction of a completely new city with its facilities and services beyond the current population area. During the first 3 months of 1980, the governorate agencies prepared plans and blueprints for the construction of this city."

Al-Salam City

The city area is 2,500 feddans or the equivalent of 10.5 million square meters. The estimated value of the lands which were encroached upon is 525 million pounds. The number of the city's housing units is 75,000 units and that of its population is 375,000 people. The green area in the city is 1,000 feddans or the equivalent of 40 percent of the city's entire area, i.e. the area allocated for every resident of the city amounts to 11.2 square meters. This figure presently exceeds 90 percent of what is available to the residents of the republic's cities. The population density is 30 housing units per feddan. The city is 25 kilometers from al-Tahrir Square, 11 kilometers from Heliopolis and 8 kilometers from 'Ayn Shams. When fully completed, the city will cost nearly 400 million pounds. The planning, blueprinting and supervision of implementation has been done completely by the Cairo Governorate agencies. Had these activities been entrusted to consulting firms, as is usually done in such projects, the planning, blueprinting and supervision work would have cost nearly 30 million pounds.

Actually Completed First Phase

The area of this phase is 500 feddans or 2.1 million square meters. The number of the housing units is 15,226 units and that of the population is 75,000 people.

Engineer Fu'ad al-Jawhari, the governor's assistant for engineering affairs, has stated: All the main facilities (roads, water, sewerage, electricity, lighting, telephones, parks and tree-planting) have been completed. The buildings for the main services and the markets required for the creation of a complete and independent city have been constructed. This has been done in the following manner:

Water: So that the city may not depend on the Cairo water network, which needs to be strengthened at present, a project has been carried out to supply the city with water independently of the Cairo water network. The project relies on artesian wells drilled in al-Marj area and includes 20 wells which produce 100,000 cubic meters of water daily. This volume will be enough for the city in its final stages. There are two 21-kilometer water pipelines, one with a diameter of 1,000 millimeters and one with a diameter of 600 millimeters, to carry the water from the wells to the city. There is also a 15-kilometer internal pipeline network for the first phase of the city. These activities have cost 5.25 million pounds.

Sewerage: A complete sewerage network and elevation plants have been built for the first phase. Four pipelines, each with a diameter of 1.5 meters, have also been built to replace part of the two open emergency [sewerage] canals which penetrate the city at a length of 7 kilometers. Priority was given to this part within the framework of the projects to develop the greater Cairo sewerage system which connects these two canals from al-Matariyah to al-Jabal al-Asfar farm. The costs of the sewerage projects for the first phase, which has actually been completed, amounted to 10 million pounds.

Electricity: Electricity has been supplied to the first phase at a capacity of 18 megawatts and at a cost of 3 million pounds. The electrical capacity needed by the city in its final phases is estimated at 100 megawatts within 3 years and will cost 15 million pounds.

Lighting: The city's internal lighting projects, along with a project for lighting the Cairo-Isma'ilie highway from 'Ayn Shams to the city, have been completed. A total of 1,250 electricity poles, 38 kilometers of cables and 23 distribution boards [grids] have been used for the purpose. The necessary electricity load amounts to 350 kilowatts. These activities have cost 500,000 pounds.

Roads: A total of 27 kilometers of main and subsidiary roads have been built. This amounts to 500,000 square meters of asphalted roads and 50,000 lineal meters of road (shoulders and sidewalks). Because of the nature of the desert area in which the city has been built, these works required the transportation of 500,000 cubic meters of soil. The costs of these works amounted to 7 million pounds.

Communications: Two final bus stations have been built to connect the city with Cairo's main squares. A railroad with a length of 11.5 kilometers has been built on 500 square meters of the city [sic] to be linked with Kubri al-Laymun station in Ramsis Square. The city has been supplied with 300 telephone lines as a first stage. These lines have been allocated for the public buildings, the service buildings and the post, telephone and telegraph offices in the city until an independent central is built for the city.

Service Buildings: Al-Salam City in al-Birkah land, Cairo Governorate, includes 25 elementary, general secondary and technical schools containing 669 classrooms, 838 commercial and industrial shops, of which 304 shops have been allocated for the public sector and the rest for the private sector, 8 nurseries, 3 youth centers, 9 consumer cooperatives, 9 food security cooperatives, 9 fish cooperatives, 9 bread distribution outlets, 9 ice shops, 2 automatic bakeries, a flour mill, a comprehensive clinic, 2 curative medical units, a police station, a police complex, a veterinary unit, a (branch of the Green Salon) and a social unit.

City's Second Phase

Engineer Amin Abu Zayd, the Ministry of Housing undersecretary for Cairo Governorate, has stated that 83 million pounds have been allocated for the governorate for the 1981-82 year and that, accordingly, it has been decided to start construction of the second phase of the city which includes:

A total of 22,000 housing units (50 percent of them consisting of 2 [bedrooms] and a living room and 50 percent consisting of 3 [bedrooms] and a living room) and a population of 110,000 people. This phase will also include all the main facilities, service buildings, commercial and industrial markets and public buildings. This phase is scheduled to be fully completed in 1982.

Costs of Unit Ownership

'Izzat Muhammad 'Ali, the Cairo Governorate secretary general, has stated that the transfer of ownership [from public sector to private citizens] in the city will be

on the basis of installments over 30 years without interest and without any advance payment and with the right to benefit from the land. The installments will be as follows:

For a unit consisting of one room, a hall, a kitchen and a bathroom, the monthly installment will be 6.25 pounds.

For a unit consisting of one[bed] room, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom, the monthly installmente will be 8.33 pounds.

For a unit consisting of 2 rooms, a hall, a kitchen and a bathroom, the monthly installment will be 11.5 pounds.

For a unit consisting of 2 rooms living room, a kitchen and a bathroom, the monthly installment will be 12.5 pounds.

For a unit consisting of 3 rooms, a hall, a kitchen and a bathroom, the monthly installment will be 17.75 pounds.

For a unit consisting of 3 rooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom, the monthly installment will be 18.75 pounds.

Housing will be awarded in accordance with the regulations approved by the governorate's local popular council and first priority will be given to workers in al-Salam City.

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REMITTANCES OF EGYPTIANS WORKING ABROAD INCREASING

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 666, 19 Oct 81 pp 21-22

[Article: "Remittances of Egyptians Working Abroad Have Increased"]

[Text] One of the important economic phenomena emerging in Egypt in the 1970's is that of the increasing numbers of Egyptians working abroad and, consequently, of their increasing savings which they transferred to Egypt and which, since then, have come to constitute an important source of foreign currency. The proof of this phenomenon is that the remittances of Egyptians working abroad which did not exceed one million dollars in 1971 have developed to reach \$818 million in 1981, not to mention the remittances used for importation without currency transfer, the remittances kept by their owners in the form of deposits and the goods coming into the country with those returning home. The total sum of these remittances amounted to \$2,861,600,000 last year.

The rise in the remittances of Egyptians is attributed to a number of banking decisions adopted during the 1970's. In 1968, the system of multiple exchange prices was adopted and an additional 35 percent was paid on top of the official prices for any foreign currencies transferred into the country by Egyptians working abroad. This percentage was raised to 50 percent in May 1972. In 1973, the system of the collateral market for foreign currency was adopted. In 1979, the extra percentage system was terminated and an incentive price was set for foreign currencies. This system has undergone several changes aimed at keeping up with the developments in the currency exchange rates according to the economic circumstances. The aim of these changes has been to encourage the Egyptians working abroad to hand over their savings in foreign currencies to the accredited banks in return for Egyptian pounds.

Chart 1: Remittances of Egyptians Working Abroad to Arab Republic of Egypt
1975-1980

(In Million Pounds***)					
Item	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
First, Sums Handed Over	194.1	253.0	384.2	654.1	666.2
A. Remittances Coming From Abroad	167.9	198.0	284.0	555.8	490.5
B. Sums Coming in for Purchase of National Goods	1.1	3.1	22.0	8.3	62.3
C. Banknotes Coming in With Egyptians	25.1	51.9	78.2	90.0	113.4
Second, Remittances not Handed Over	53.6*	90.1	147.9	201.0	301.6
A. Individual Deposits in Commercial Banks	18.7	41.8	70.0	90.0	234.5
B. Individual Deposits in Investment and Business Banks	9.0	21.0	41.0	89.0	46.0
C. Individual Deposits in Two Joint Arab Banks	25.9	27.3	36.9	22.0	21.1
Third, Importation Without Money Transfer	92.7	167.5	265.2	587.2	883.3
Total	340.4	510.6	797.3	1,442.3	1,851.1
Value of Goods Coming in Company With Passengers**	68.1	102.1	159.5	288.5	370.5
Grand Total	408.5	692.7	956.8	1,730.8	2,221.6
					2,861.9

* Estimated

** Figures in this chart are calculated on basis of incentive exchange rate for the dollar, amounting to 70 piasters.

*** Estimated on basis that they are equal to 20 percent of total value of annual remittances.

**Sums Handed Over by Egyptians Working Abroad to Foreign Currency (Pool) in
Accredited Banks**

(Distributed According to Country)

Year	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	(In Million Pounds)
A. Remittances Coming From Abroad								
Saudi Arabia	7.9	10.2	12.0	11.1	259.0	245.6	381.2	
Kuwait	4.8	0.5	1.1	3.0	32.2	14.3	23.2	
Libya	39.5	58.7	79.4	58.3	40.4	17.7	0.3	
Gulf Emirates	5.7	5.2	8.6	10.1	14.3	6.1	6.5	
Iraq	4.0	0.7	1.3	1.8	6.8	5.4	1.4	
Algeria	0.7	2.1	0.7	1.7	1.3	3.0	1.8	
Bahrain	-	1.1	2.3	3.1	5.2	2.0	-	
Others	3.8	2.0	1.0	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.9	
Total From Arab Countries	62.8	80.5	106.4	89.8	360.7	295.2	416.3	
Remittances from Australia and other Countries	19.4	16.2	28.1	28.0	27.8	31.8	38.9	
Undistributed Remittances [sic]								
England	19.1	32.2	29.9	32.2	23.4	13.7	15.4	
America [US]	22.9	31.7	32.2	91.9	72.4	89.9	103.4	
France	7.2	7.3	1.4	41.1	71.5	59.9	78.7	
Total From Undistributed Countries	49.2	71.2	63.5	166.2	167.3	163.5	197.5	
Total Remittances	131.4	167.9	198.0	284.0	555.8	490.5	642.7	
Banknotes Coming in With Egyptians	26.5	25.1	51.9	78.2	90.0	113.4	117.7	
Sums Coming in for Purchase of National Goods	0.7	1.1	3.1	22.0	8.3	62.3	57.9	
Grand Total	158.6	194.1	253.0	384.2	654.1	666.2	818.3	

KHOMEYNI'S PERSECUTION OF BAHAI'S REVIEWED

PM191303 Paris FRANCE-SOIR in French 11 Nov 81 p 2

[Jean-Louis Morillon report: "Khomeyni Gives His 450,000 Baha'i's the Choice: Islam or Death"]

[Text] "My cousin was shot. He was a chemical engineer in a sugar refinery and was not involved in any political activity. His wife went to collect the body from Evin prison in Tehran. She was fired from her job in the customs service and we have not heard any more from her."

This evidence given by Mr (Mavaddat), an Iranian who has been living in France for 26 years, sums up the fate of Iran's 450,000 Baha'i's--of which 75,000 live in Tehran--an accursed community with a strange name which conceals a very innocent situation. Indeed this religious minority, the largest in the country, dreams only of universal brotherhood. This is obviously a crime for Ayatollah Khomeyni's fanatics, who see the enemies of God, their God of course, everywhere.

Of what was 53-year old (Farhang Mavaddat) accused? Nothing aside from the fact that for 10 years he had been chairman of the Baha'i assembly in Karaj, a small city 40 km from Tehran. The xenophobic fundamentalists discovered aggravating circumstances: Mr (Mavaddat's) three children are studying in the west, two in the United States and one in Europe, which "proves culpable foreign relations," the judge declared.

There is no room for pity in Ayatollah Khomeyni's Iran. Each day men and women are executed, not to mention the dozens of others who are lynched for adultery or non-conformism. Some people are resisting: monarchists, liberal republicans and democratic socialists have planted bombs, staged ambushes and taken up arms to bring down the stifling obscurantist dictatorship at any cost.

But the Baha'i's are suffering an even greater injustice: they are not doing anything and yet are the first victims of the Shi'ites' holy war against all those who have the audacity not to believe in the Koran alone. In the cities and villages of ancient Persia they pray three times a day in secret as in the days of history's bloodiest persecutions of Christians and Jews.

Massacres

Unfortunately the examples are increasing. The Baha'i's are now being executed in whole batches. The revolution guards are not content with killing; they torture

their victims first. It would be rather tedious to list the names of all those who have recently paid with their lives for a peaceful and open faith. Nonetheless it is necessary to list at least some of the torment inflicted in the past few months on Baha'is returned to their families with or six [as published] bullets in their bodies.

In his apartment in Creteil, Mr (Mavaddat) listed the sorry exploits of the Iranian executioners. The hired thugs were particularly brutal in Hamadan. One Baha'i had his shoulder broken then crushed before being shot. Another, a doctor, had his thighs slashed. A third, also a doctor, had the fingers of one hand crushed and his back burned. Yet another had his right hand shattered and his chest smashed in. The families had to weep in silence. Indeed there was no question of them complaining. The authorities cover up the worst cases of extortion and even directly encourage this--one could venture to say modern--form of inquisition.

Many Baha'is are living and dying like this in Iran's remote villages. Their martyrdom goes unnoticed. Nonetheless cases of sacrifices, each more terrible than the others, filter through.

In the village of Nuk--Khorasan Province--a 72-year old Baha'i farmer was coldly murdered and his wife burned alive. A few weeks ago two young girls aged around 14 were abducted by teachers of Muslim studies, now a compulsory subject in all Iranian schools: their families in Musa-abad, a village near Tehran, and Balu near Orumieh have no hope of seeing them again. "Your daughters have been converted to Allah, they no longer want to live with heretics like you," the authorities told the anguished parents.

Will the Baha'is continue to be massacred one by one in this way--people whose religion has often been described as an attractive utopia? Will their children continue to be seized and forcibly converted? On 19 September 1980 the European parliament adopted a resolution condemning both "the violation of the rights of religious minorities in Iran--particularly the Baha'is--the illegal measures taken against prominent Catholics and Anglicans and the executions of prominent members of the Jewish community." It was in vain. The appeal to humanitarian feelings had no effect on the Ayatollahs.

Harassment

Yazd local radio called on 150 Baha'is in that city of 100,000 inhabitants southeast of Tehran to report to the authorities within 1 week. That is often how it all begins. In (Manshad), a neighboring village, the revolution guards seized the Baha'is' furniture and crops. In Hemmat-abad near Abadeh the wives of several Baha'is were threatened with serious reprisals if their husbands, who had fled to escape Islamic summary justice, did not give themselves up immediately.

Throughout Iran the raids are assuming terrifying proportions. Some 31 Baha'is were recently taken to the mosque in a village near Esfahan and forced to abjure their faith under threat. Some time before that the revolutionary committees in Mashhad in the northeastern part of the country sacked 28 Baha'i houses and dragged the fathers of the families into the mosques to force them to renounce their beliefs under pain of their children being maltreated and their property seized.

This violence began during the winter of 1978-1979, when the shah's regime was gasping its last and support for Ayatollah Khomeyni was growing irresistibly. During the 2 months which preceded the return to Iran of the "supreme guide" exiled in Neauphe-le-Chateau, Yvelines, almost 120 attacks on Baha'is were reported.

Some 500 houses were sacked, destroyed or burned in Shiraz--in the south--and in Azarbayjan Province near the Turkish border. Some 800 families were left without shelter in the harsh climate of those regions. A father and his son were lynched to death and their bodies were then dragged through the streets of Miadowab before being dismembered and burned. These horrors boded ill for the clerics' monopoly of power. The 2 and 1/2 years which followed merely spread that bloody policy.

Initially Ayatollah Khomeyni pretended not to support this "purging" movement. The Shi'ite leader had even condemned the arson committed by his zealous followers. "Islam preaches tolerance," the Ayatollah stated, always ready to recall great principles, even when he is being blatantly hypocritical. Indeed the omnipotent Ayatollah has done nothing to excommunicate the fanatical criminals who are acting in his name. "Allah is great, he is the only god," the Shi'ites continue to chant with his blessing, regarding the other beliefs stemming from Islam as heresies and treachery.

Asphyxia

The extermination of the Baha'is seems to be following a plan. Different phases of the program have been implemented over the months, each time with more bloodshed and trials. The community's national registers were first stolen by the ultraconservative Tabliqat-e Eslami Brotherhood (Islamic propaganda group) which was led by Ali Raja'i, who was elected president of the republic last July to replace the ousted Bani-sadr.

Thanks to those documents the clerics were able to attack the economic foundation of the community in order to asphyxiate it. Unlike Shi'ism, which regards modern education with suspicion, the Baha'i doctrine encourages its followers to study and extend their knowledge and naturally enough many of them had succeeded in securing well-paid positions as merchants or surgeons. Their estates have been seized on various pretexts (the law of force is the only one which the Khomeyni militia follow), bank accounts have been seized, and thousands of Baha'is have been fired from their jobs without reason and stores have been destroyed.

The tide of hatred was gathered momentum. Almost all shrines have been desecrated and ancestors' graveyards razed to the ground by public works vehicles.

Hundreds of Baha'is chose to flee to other countries while there was still time. But that was not enough: assassinations and major trials have increased recently to spread terror and decapitate this hated community.

On 13 January an unknown party fired several fatal shots at Dr Manuchehr Hakim, a respected 70-year old doctor, lecturer [Agrege] in anatomy at the Pris faculty and a gastroenterology specialist respected by the poor people who he treated free in the Baha'i hospital which has since been closed by the regime.

Professor Hakim, who was gunned down in his private consulting room in Tehran, was certainly the victim of the policy aimed at exterminating his fellow believers. Some 2 days before the murder the revolution guards had come to question him at length on his fellow believers. The doctor had refused to give lists, according to his daughter Christine, an ethnologist who has taken refuge in Paris.

Defiance

The day of the funeral 60 doctors in white coats carried Dr Hakim's coffin. Some 5,000 people followed the funeral processing chanting sacred verses. A section of the revolution guards tried to sabotage the ceremony by announcing that bombs had been planted in the cemetery. But the crowd refused to move.

That act of defiance angered the militia who took their revenge a few days later. They ransacked Dr Hakim's house, destroyed the doors and windows and then displayed a search warrant issued 7 months previously. The family home was confiscated on behalf of the "poor people's foundation," a Khomeynist organization used to enlist unemployed people.

Since that assassination trials without lawyers have condemned to death many leaders of the Baha'is who follow a religion in which there are no priests. In each district where Baha'is live the faithful elect a "nine-man spiritual assembly" for 1 year. It is rumored in Iran that the Shi'ite fundamentalists intend to execute the 4,500 elected representatives of these 500 "spiritual assemblies."

Under the Islamic Republic's constitution the Baha'is are noncitizens, outlawed pariahs. They do not exist. For instance Baha'i marriage is not recognized or recorded, which means it is impossible for a wife to obtain a joint passport with her husband or for the children to have identity cards.

The Baha'is who have the courage to declare their official religion cannot work in the civil service. Public meetings, the publication of religious literature and access to holy places are forbidden them.

The Baha'is no longer have any rights; either to travel or to buy or sell. My father-in-law, formerly a telecommunications engineer, and my mother-in-law, a teacher, have been deprived of their pensions and have no private means of subsistence." Mr (Mavaddat) told me in Creteil. "I know somebody who made a complaint against his Muslim tenant who refused to pay his rent, the authorities replied; 'how dare you? You are a Baha'i, you have no rights. We are confiscating your house.'"

Scapegoat

Why this relentless? The principles of their religion compel the Baha'is to be loyal and obedient to the government in office, whatever the political regime. They must even refrain from any militancy in a party and, more especially, from any subversive activity. Therefore they are not very terrible adversaries for the Islamic regime, which is being attacked by much more determined opponents.

Indeed the Baha'is have always suffered discrimination in their native country. They have always been made the scapegoats in time of trouble. Shortly after this

religion was founded, in the middle of the 19th century, 20,000 of them were martyred. In 1955 and 1963 the shah's secret police staged violent demonstrations against them to provide a channel for discontent. But that was nothing to compare with what is happening now.

The pretexts invoked willy-nilly to persecute them are ridiculous. How could they have been the Pahlavi monarchy's henchmen when the past shows that the reverse was true? It is true that the shah sometimes placed his trust in Baha'is, who are reputed for their integrity and ability. For instance the sovereign's personal physician was a follower of that religion.

The shah, who intended to make his country into a great modern state, adopted the principles which the Baha'is had been preaching for a long time. But that is merely a coincidence. In 1963 women were given the right to vote. All the progressive Baha'i ideas adopted by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi during that famous "white revolution," are now enough to cast suspicion on the Baha'is who refused to veil their women in the Chador and to vote for the Islamic Republic.

The other accusation habitually invoked in the Islamic press during trials is "collusion with zionism." Many Baha'is have indeed received letters from Israel and have sent money there. But there is a very simple explanation for this fact: the Baha'i religion's world center, called the "universal house of justice," is situated on the slopes of Mount Carmel in Haifa, where it enjoys the Israelis' tolerance of all religions on that holy ground.

CSO: 4619/21

IRAN

PRIME MINISTER'S REACTION TO U.S. 'BRIGHT STAR' OPERATIONS

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Nov 81 p 14

[Text] Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, after a visit to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, took part in an interview yesterday at noon. He spoke about his visit to the Imam, his trip to Kerman, the U.S. military maneuvers in Egypt, the peace proposal for Afghanistan, and the imposed war.

Concerning his visit with the Imam, the prime minister said: This visit with the Imam was in keeping with a good tradition. Since the Imam had not had a private visit for some time, the Cabinet was granted this audience and benefitted from his guidance.

The Imam emphasized the unity between the government, the nation, and the clergy. When the government of the Imam's line was established in Raja'i's Cabinet, the essential goal was to emphasize the unity of the government and the nation. The goal of the present government and Cabinet as well is the same. Engineer Musavi added: Without the presence of the people on the scene, the extensive problems of the revolution will not be solved. Our Islamic revolution has created certain goals that can only materialize with the general participation and active presence of the people on the scene. In the visit to the Imam, this issue was greatly emphasized.

Trip to Kerman

Concerning his recent trip to Kerman, the prime minister said: As you know, a number of our fellow citizens were killed or suffered great damages as the result of the earthquake. In this earthquake, many houses were ruined and much wealth was destroyed. The government must show sensitivity towards this problem. I wanted to witness it first hand and see what assistance the government could provide in this regard. He added: In this province, the people's forces and the clergy are acting extensively, but they need government assistance. We must take action as quickly as possible so that our fellow citizens can spend the cold season in better conditions. He added:

Another important point which must be brought out is that in my encounter with the people of this region, they were in good spirits. When I spoke to them in Golbaft mosque, the slogans that they shouted were the same as those in other parts of Iran, in support of the Islamic revolution. The people said: Take our greetings to the Imam. This demonstrates the extensiveness of the revolution.

'Bright Star' Operations

Concerning the U.S. military operation "Bright Star," he said: The United States is determining its fatal destiny at its own hands day by day. It seems that the destiny of imperialism will be determined in battle with the Islamic people. This battle was begun by our nation with the Islamic revolution and it seems that the time when the United States will suffer the final defeat and bury itself with its own hands is drawing nearer. He added: The United States has brought its forces to the vicinity of Mecca and Medina, but it has not foreseen that the Islamic people will not remain indifferent to these aggressions. Each one of these steps will have great influence in making the people see clearly, especially when that awareness is coupled with a return to godly ways. This return will rapidly end in an extensive battle against the worldwide oppressive forces headed by the United States. We are witnessing that the United States is bringing this battle closer and we have declared our position regarding this issue. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a declaration in this regard announcing its opposition. Here we warn the United States that with this action, it will mobilize all the regional Moslem forces against itself and against the U.S.-dependent rulers. He said: We are not afraid of this issue. The Islamic people must be alert and prepared, as ever, throughout the world in order to respond to every blow with another blow.

Afghanistan Peace Proposal

Engineer Musavi, concerning the Afghanistan peace proposal and its reception throughout the world, said: Concerning this plan, all that can be said has already been expressed in various views. With regards for the internal makeup of the Afghan nation and the political experience gained from our revolution, we included certain points in this plan which, in the long run, will result in the unity of the struggling people's forces of Afghanistan. He said: This plan will bring about among the people's movements of Afghanistan a purging of the elements who are dependent on the West and the East. This is very important for the people of Afghanistan. This plan reemphasizes the issue we have thusfar been emphasizing: that the Soviet Union, with its occupation of Afghanistan, provides the best excuse for the United States to have a presence in the region. In fact, the continued presence of the United States in the region is in part dependent on the military presence of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. This is ultimately helping the United States. To resolve the

Afghanistan issue, the only regime which should come to power in this country is one which is Islamic and anti-oppressive. The existence of such a regime can, in the long run, bring closer the fatal destiny of the United States.

The War

In conclusion, Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, sent a message concerning the war and said: The government usually receives a message from the nation. He said: We hear the shouts and revolutionary slogans of the people. The government must listen for such issues. These slogans which rise up from the pure nature of the people and from their deep belief in Islam and human honor and dignity must be noted. If the government is able to receive these messages and direct its actions accordingly, it can move along the correct path. For this reason, I do not have a message as such for the people.

The prime minister added: We give priority to the issue of the war. Our brave fighters, including the military and guards corps forces, are fighting on the war fronts and defending the lord of Islam. In fact, they defend the proven existence for which human beings have the right. Our government and our nation are with them and fully support them. The government puts all of its resources at the disposal of the brave Moslem combatants.

He added: Our combatants must know that the front does not end with Iraq. The front continues and extends to Egypt.

He said: The movement has expanded layer by layer and stratum by stratum in our society. It is precisely the very front that Islam has opened against heathenism to eliminate heathenism on all levels. Our nation totally serves Islam and the Cabinet ministers are servants of Islam. They are servants of these brothers. We have mobilized all of our resources to fight and we know to what extent this war is destiny-making. I believe that if we are also active on the political scene, we will attain a decisive victory.

9593

CSO: 4640/58

TUDÉH INFILTRATION OF GOVERNMENT CLAIMED

GF231740 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, as we informed you during the news, Mullah Musavi-tabrizi, the chief revolution prosecutor of the regime of the Islamic Republic, in an interview with the government newspaper ETELA'AT confessed that the Tudeh Party and the majority branch of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq have been able to infiltrate the revolution guards and other Islamic organizations of Khomeyni's regime. Has Musavi-tabrizi revealed a new secret? Did he announce something in the interview that the Iranian nation was not aware of? No, not at all. The thing that the executioner of the Islamic regime referred to [words indistinct].

(?It is not surprising to find this godless group cooperation) with the Mullahs. This treacherous and foreign-directed party's only concern is to commit treachery against Iran and to cost our homeland its independence.

The free activity of the Tudeh members, who openly deny the almighty and consider religion to be the opiate of the masses, is a sign of freedom and democracy for the Mullahs in the Islamic Republic. They used to mention this to foreigners.

The thing that may be new is Musavi-tabrizi's claim that the regime is trying to discover members of the party and execute them. It seems that either Musavi-tabrizi does not know--which seems farfetched--or he is feigning ignorance. What better recognition of the Tudeh Party members when for the past 3 years the first secretary of Tudeh Communist Party and dear friend of Ayatollah Beheshti, Nurodding Kianuri, has been called Ayatollah Kianuri by the people of Iran? What better recognition when Hojjat Ol-eslam Ehsan Tabari, in reciting tales of Imam Hoseyn's battle with Yazid, equates it with the Marxist revolution? This is the same Ehsan Tabari who in an issue of mardom in 1945 wrote that the party's belief is that the Iranian Government should immediately grant the northern oil exploration rights to the Soviet Union and the southern ones to the United Kingdom. He added: We should accept that the Soviet Union has vital interests in Iran and that that nation must be given the required (?rights). Similarly, [the Tudeh Party] has no objection to granting special rights to the United Kingdom.

Finally, the Mullahs, with the directorship of the destroyed Ayatollah Beheshti, prepared the grounds for implementing this suggestion. Does Musavi-tabrizi not know all this?

Let us assume that the prosecutor does not know the history of the Tudeh's previous treacheries. Is he not aware of the services of the Tudeh Party to the regime of the Islamic Republic in the past 3 years? Is he not aware of the secret agreements between his regime and those powers referred to by Ehsan Tabari? Does he not know that Ayatollah Kianuri has been and is following the Imam's line and has put his party's security and espionage organization--which is operated by experts of a foreign power--completely at the disposal of the Imam of Jamaran to be used for putting the idealistic, deceived youth at the mercy of the executioners of the regime who have been deserted by the so-called Mojahed brother Mas'ud Rajavi? Of course, this is the same Rajavi who until very recently followed the Imam's policies and who now sends the innocent youth who are thirsty for freedom to the execution chambers of his former Imam. Is the Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin who himself killed thousands of these youth not aware of the identity of the ones who informed him about these children of Iran?

If Musavi-tabrizi, whose black deeds as the Islamic executioner have made [words indistinct] look like angels, does not know all that was said and is still looking for Tudeh members who have infiltrated Islamic organizations and revolutionary departments of his Imam's regime, then all he has to do is take a good look at the regime and the so-called officials of these organizations--the same people who hold Islamic-Marxist prayer sessions with him. If he is still not successful, then he should contact the 36-million-strong intelligence organization. He can then be sure that the Iranian nation has recognized each treacherous Tudeh member, just as they have all the treacherous Mullahs whose names have been carved on the trees from which they will be hanged.

CSO: 4640/55

REZA PAHLAVI CLAIMS SUPPORT IN ARMY, BAZAAR

PM231359 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21-27 Nov 81 pp 1-3

[Interview with Prince Reza Pahlavi by Amir Taheri in Cairo-date not given]

[Excerpts] The Prince began by saying: "You are welcome. Don't forget that I am still a student."

As a matter of fact, if things in Iran had not gone the way they have gone and had his father, the former shah, remained in power, Prince Reza would even now still have been a student at Princeton University in the United States completing his studies in economics and political sciences. But things have developed contrary to what one would have wished.

The prince said: "For more than 3 years I have been thinking about my future like any person of my age would do. I have come to the conclusion that I must follow the path which my fate has destined for me, I must devote myself to my country. The events that have swept through Iran in the past 3 years have changed the form of my responsibilities but not their essence or basis. This outward change is temporary because man can never divorce himself from his fate."

Replying to a question as to how optimistic he is about the possibility of taking over power in Iran, he said: "I am sure of this. Monarchy alone can save Iran from what it is suffering and restore peace and security to its land. Sooner or later everybody will realize this fact and I will return to my country in order to carry out my constitutional responsibilities."

Prince Reza declines to commit himself to a specific period of time but, in the course of his talk with us, it clearly appears that he and his close advisers have become convinced that monarchy is daily on the ascendancy in Iran.

The prince continued: "I cannot reveal our time schedule but I can say that everything is going according to the plans we have laid down. I cannot believe that the present transitional period in Iran will last long."

We asked him if he has a special organization of his own. He replied: "I am not a politician. By this I mean that I am not the head of a party or of a political group. The monarchy's role is to stand above the various parties and factions and then to symbolize the hopes and aspirations of the people as a whole. But there are many nationalist organizations that are struggling to save Iran from the present situation. These organizations are not necessarily monarchist."

He added: "Anybody who is struggling in defense of Iran's freedom and independence must be supported regardless of ideological and political differences. In any case the king must stand above the parties so as to represent national sovereignty. This is the reason why I consider myself as the King of all Iranians, including those who are opposed to monarchy."

But does this mean that he will become only a figurehead? In reply to this question, he said: "This is out of the question now. What I mean by constitutional monarch is to serve the country in accordance with the provisions of the 1906 constitution which gave monarchy specific powers with the rights and privileges consequent upon them. No more and no less."

He explained to us at length that he does not share the view that Iran can live in peace under the rule of a regime that is purely despotic. Rather, he believes that the presence of monarchy would prevent the domination of despots and the emergence of military dictators. He came to the conclusion that the countries that have rejected monarchy have either fallen under military dictatorship or have been rent by chaos and confusion.

Planting Secret Cells

He said that his supporters have now become "well organized" inside the country but declined to give any details.

He added: "What is important is that the Iranians should know that I am not idle. Also there is no need to intensify the focusing on my activities. I do not wish to steal the press headlines because all that I would like to do is to save my country from its predicament and from total catastrophe."

Apparently the groups and organizations supporting monarchy outside Iran are still in disagreement among themselves because of feuds and personal disputes. But last week 29 of these organizations, most of which are in Europe and the United States, announced that they have united in order to form a "unified command," but so far we have been unable to trace this "new command" or find out what it intends to do.

Prince Reza explained to us that he considers the following groups as the backbone for concentrating and mobilizing the supporters of monarchy: the urban workers who are threatened by unemployment and inflation; the middle class which is threatened by physical liquidation; the armed forces which the prince says is "100 percent loyal to monarchy"; and finally the tribes whose number is estimated at 6 million people who live in the border areas. A number of leaders of the Kurdish and Baluchi tribes have also pledged loyalty to Prince Reza, who also says that the majority of the powerful Qashka'i tribes have become loyal to him.

Prince Reza explained that what is more important than all this is the fact that his supporters have been able to make contact with the "bazaar" merchants in Tehran. It was the "bazaar merchants" that in the past financed Khomeyni's campaign against the shah and paralyzed his government through strikes and the staging of political strikes.

Prince Reza says: "The bazaar merchants have once again begun to rally around me, having realized that the present ruling group in Tehran intends to eliminate their business and private trade and because they have no choice before them other than

monarchy or communism. In the circumstances, the merchant faction cannot but join the line running counter to the line that has led to their present misery and hardships."

If the behavior of the army officers banished abroad is considered as the touchstone of the Iranian military's loyalty to monarchy, the Iranian armed forces that are now fighting a war with Iraq are considered to be the most important base for monarchy in Iran itself. There are now hundreds of exiled officers, from the rank of lieutenant to that of general, who have now begun to openly speak of their support for the young prince. Many officers inside Iran are seeking to establish contact with the army personnel and the tribes probably with the aim of planting secret armed cells. They send reports and voice recordings about meetings held inside Iran along with pictures "of the activities that are taking place in support of monarchy." Recently the royalists pasted up a big picture of the prince on one of the oil tanks on Khark Island in the Gulf. The Iranian authorities immediately sent a revolutionary guard unit by plane to the island in order to tear down the pictures and any undesirable posters.

The prince hopes to rally the educated majority behind him--of whose loyalty he is in great need in order to restore the situation to normal and to revive the collapsed Iranian economy. The prince is well aware of the major problems from which Iran is suffering at present and which it is impossible for a single person or single party to deal with or to solve alone.

In this regard the prince insists on saying that "any party that claims it is possible for any single faction or party to save Iran from its present dilemma and rebuild it is quite wrong." He said: "All the nation must unite and work for a decade before we can repair the damage that has been done to the country."

Obviously, Prince Reza has still much to learn with regard to political practices but those close to him say that he is learning fast. He has been able to deal with a number of difficult negotiations with leftist opposition groups and in the end he was able to convince them that fighting Iman Khomeyni must be their primary target. He has also been successful in reducing hostility toward him among the other opposition groups to the extent that Adm Ahmad Madani, the former minister of defense in Khomeyni's Government, and Hasan Nazih, the former chairman of the national Iranian Oil Company, have been saying that monarchists will not be excluded from any agreement reached in future after Khomeyni is overthrown. Previously these two personalities directed all their opposition against the shah.

CSO: 4604/7

IRAN

'NVOI' ON AIMS OF 'BRIGHT STAR' MANEUVERS

TA231055 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 22 Nov 81

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Imperialism is the Foe of the Independence of Nations and Governments"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Some time ago Mr Musavi Khamene'i, our Islamic Republic's prime minister, strongly condemned the U.S. military maneuvers code named bright star. He called upon all the people of our region to rise decisively against the conspiracies of U.S. imperialism in the near and Middle East. He declared that such aggressive measures by the Washington Administration should bring about the intensification of the nations' struggles against the United States' aggressive policy.

As we are aware, the Americans have chosen Egypt as the place to conduct their military maneuvers, and this is not accidental, for, following the overthrow of the bloody regime of the annihilated shah in our country, U.S. imperialism has specifically assigned Egypt's rulers with fulfilling the role of the new gendarme. In these maneuvers military units of the U.S. rapid deployment force, namely about 4,000 U.S. soldiers and officers, and large quantities of equipment, weapons and military hardware, including tanks, armored vehicles, artillery pieces, B-52 strategic bombers and AWACS type planes participated. In these maneuvers, which were conducted on Egyptian soil, more than 4,000 Egyptian army personnel also participated along with the U.S. forces. At the same time, within the framework of these maneuvers military training was carried out on the territory of other countries that have regimes subservient to U.S. imperialism, namely in Sudan, Somalia and Oman in which the armed forces of these countries also participated.

In these maneuvers a so-called plan of occupying and holding positions was tested, signifying the preparation of armed aggression against a country whose regime in the region is not to the liking of U.S. imperialism. On the eve of these maneuvers general [name indistinct], commander of the U.S. rapid deployment forces, in an interview with the Italian newspaper journal [name indistinct] declared with an impudence that is characteristic of the current U.S. Administration that this maneuver is a fundamental exercise on a world scale. He said: We are prepared for war, and this preparedness by itself contributes a new factor to the situation in the near east and North Africa.

This so-called new factor in the policy of the new U.S. Administration in our region--a region which has attracted the covetous attention of U.S. imperialism toward its rich oil resources and sensitive strategic position--is very clear. This

new factor is the self-same impudent over conspiracies and armed provocations against the region's independent and anti-imperialist systems, including our liberated homeland, which has aroused the mad wrath of U.S. imperialism by overthrowing the U.S. puppet and gendarme regime and also by implementing an independent and anti-imperialist policy.

Progressive mankind and all independent nations and governments of our region are indignant at the provocative maneuvers of the U.S. forces which have overtly posed a threat not only to the peace and security of our region but also to the peace and security of the world. It is particularly on the basis of this indignation of nations that our country's ministry of foreign affairs, in its special statement, decisively condemned these provocative and impudent acts of the U.S. Administration.

In order to ensure its so-called vital interests--and we should expect that in no time at all it will declare the whole world as a zone of such alleged interests--U.S. imperialism does not refrain from resorting to any crime and plot; and it is acting more impudently every day in regards to independent and anti-imperialist countries. For this reason the struggle against world-devouring America, this primary and main foe of nations, must not be weakened even for one moment.

CSO: 4640/55

MAJLIS TO CONSIDER NEW CHARTER FOR REVOLUTION GUARDS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 10 Feb 81 p 2

[Text] Shiraz Majlis deputy Sabah Zanganeh told a press conference held in the Majlis building the day before yesterday that the Majlis defense affairs committee has drawn up a new charter for the revolutionary guards.

Zanganeh said the charter of the revolutionary guards was approved the first time by the Revolutionary Council and the corps had been operating accordingly but in order to determine the duties and prerogatives of the corps more precisely the committee drew up the new charter over a period of 6 months with the help of corps commanders and invited corps members as well as the advice of experienced individuals. The document will be probably sent to the Majlis next week. Of course concurrent with this work, the committee also studied a plan to rebuild the armed forces and the result of that too will be announced soon. Referring to details of the new charter for guards corps, Zanganeh said: The new charter puts a stop to any dishonesty, deviation or centralization of power that would lead to dictatorship within the corps. The goals of the corps set forth in the new charter comprise: protecting the Islamic Revolution and its benefits, fighting on God's path, struggling against internal despotism, mobilization of the Muslim people and unstinting support for the world's weak and oppressed. All these goals must be sought under the direction and instruction of the rule of theocracy and with due consideration of religious precepts. He stressed that the corps, with the sincere cooperation of other military and security forces, is the protector of the independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is also to act on military, political and ideological levels. The defense affairs committee has clearly determined the limits and boundaries of such activities in order to avoid interference with other organs of the country. The Shiraz deputy added: The new charter calls for the appointment of a mojtahed [clergy versed in religious jurisprudence] as a representative of the supreme leadership dispensing true and mandatory guidance to further the culture of theocracy and the Imamate. The charter sets a centralized command structure, with prerogatives given according to set responsibilities. Except in cases involving military orders of the Supreme Defense Council, the centralized command will in all other cases confer with the council before making decisions. In order to speed up work and to reduce staff headquarter cadres, effort has been made in the charter to reduce the membership on the Supreme [Guards] Corps Council. Concerning the corps' budget he said: This would be drawn up each year by the administrative and financial section and it would be presented to the council of ministers by the minister without portfolio. The government would then include it in the general budget to be sent to the Majlis for approval.

According to this charter, members of the guards corps will be chosen from among educated, trustworthy, committed, courageous individuals with good character.

Sabah Zanganeh continued his statement by saying that in dealing with the information and research section, the charter has considered two factors: the centralization of information and research and to insure its humane aspects. Another interesting point contained in the charter is the possibility of a review of the document 2 years after it has been in force. This is to make possible the incorporation of positive and useful points which may develop in the future. Referring to the need of an information bureau for the corps Zanganeh said: The corps needs an information and research bureau to help its internal work and help it achieve the goals spelled out in the charter. Although such a bureau would be centralized unit its activities would nevertheless be coordinated with other information and research organizations.

The Shiraz Majlis deputy commented on the reduction in the membership of the Supreme [Guards] Corps Council by saying: After considering the new table of organization of the corps we concluded that some of its units, such as the provincial coordinating section dealing with matters that fall within the authority of each local commander, were superfluous. Referring to the veto power given to the representative of the Leader, Zanganeh said this was to prevent possible deviation within the command level.

Zanganeh continued: Of course we have not until now reached such a stage with the corps in practice but the defense affairs committee had this in mind as a precautionary measure for the future. This will apply only to instances where the representative of the Leadership should feel that any moves sanctioned by the Supreme Corps Council are clearly contrary to the faith or contrary to the tenets of Islam. The representative of the Leadership also enjoys veto power, to a degree, over military plans in so far as such plans affect Islamic guidelines. In other words, if he should feel that a military tactic would violate Islamic principles or that the Supreme [Guards] Corps Council possibly intends to use unlawful methods to achieve a goal, the representative of the Leadership could oppose such moves and would have veto power.

5854
CSO: 4640/38

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON NMRI ATTITUDE ON AUTONOMY

NC181153 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 17 Nov 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The National Resistance Movement and Autonomy for Iranian Races"]

[Text] Autonomy is a word that has been brought up and heard many times during the past 3 years. Some political groups, especially in areas like Kordestan, have placed the gaining of autonomy at the top of the list of their programs.

The "Islamic Republic" greatly fears this word, and Khomeyni's clique prefers to use the Persian word of sel-management [khod gardani] instead of the word autonomy [khod mokhtari] that connotes [words indistinct], exceptionally in this case.

What is autonomy that the clergy fear it, combatants die for it and leaders of political parties exploit it? Autonomy is the right of the people to freely manage their special affairs within the framework of a central government. A glance at the charter of the national resistance movement of Iran [NRMI] and the basis of the thought of Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, the movement's leader, show that we not only do not oppose the granting of this right to the various (?races) of the Iranian nation, including our Kurdish compatriots, but the main objective of the movement is to ensure the [word indistinct] free administration of Iran by the Iranian nation. To make our point clearer, we can say that the main difference we have with Khomeyni's regime is that the Mullahs have deprived this right not only from the people of [word indistinct] areas, but from the entire Iranian nation. We remember how [words indistinct], leader of one of the parties that has now (?joined) the (?united) front of the communists said in a radio interview: we will not unite with the NRMI and Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, because he opposes our people's autonomy.

In view of all that which has been said during the past 1 year and some months on the autonomy of Iranian (?races) by radio Iran. In view of the (?contents of the program) of the NRMI and the basis of Dr Shapur Bakhtiar's basis of thought, as well as in view of (?all) Dr Shapur Bakhtiar has said in various press and radio-television interviews concerning autonomy. We clearly see how baseless the remarks of the leader of the said party were. Saying that the NRMI and Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, the movement's leader, opposes the autonomy of Iranian races is more a slander than a political opinion. This becomes more interesting when the leader of that party, in giving a reason for Dr Bakhtiar's opposition to autonomy, added that whenever Shapur Bakhtiar talks of autonomy he immediately (?stresses) Iran's territorial integrity. To what extent the (?stressing of) Iran's territorial integrity can show Dr Bakhtiar's opposition to autonomy is something that the leader of that party should be asked.

We believe that the majority of rights for the administration of the regional affairs of various provinces should be given to the people of same province and that people of each province and district should be able, (?through a democratic) [word indistinct], to have a say in the appointment of regional officials responsible for regional affairs and to supervise their activities. We also believe that Iran's culture is a collection of the cultures of all Iranian (?nationalities) and any attempt toward the strengthening and development of the language and culture of the Iranian races will be toward the strengthening of the Iranian nation's culture. We consider the right of each and every member of the Iranian nation and all Iranian (?races) in speaking in the language or (?dialects) [word indistinct] as the primary right of each and every one of them. (?Therefore), how can we (?oppose the autonomy of a place like Kordestan)? contrary to the Mullahs, we do not fear the word autonomy. We want autonomy not only for Kordestan but for all the people of Iran [words indistinct] and (?stress the need) for Iran's territorial integrity and (?solidarity).

CSO: 4640/55

OFFICIAL OUTLINES JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION REFORMS

LD231502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] In order to speed up the affairs of the ministry of justice and other judicial matters of the country, duties and responsibilities within the ministry of justice have been divided among the members of the supreme judicial council. The director general of the supreme judicial council secretariat has granted an interview to Pars News Agency. Announcing the above reform, he said that the new decisions by the supreme judicial council on the apportionment of duties were made during three consecutive sessions of the council held in the morning and in the afternoon. He added that in the new allocation of work within the supreme judicial council, Mr Musavi Ardabili, the president of the country's supreme court, and member of the supreme judicial council, will deal with coordination; the perjury and bankruptcy sections; offences committed by judges of the ministry of justice; matters concerning the medical examiner's office; judicial assistance and related matters; the bar association's relations with the supreme judicial council; correspondence with the department of registration of documents; applications from heads of marriage registration offices; applications from heads of official document registration offices; applications from the justice ministry's official advisors, matters concerning the department of plans and investigations including organization and budget; matters concerning the official organ of the Islamic Republic of Iran; applications from heads of justice departments in provincial towns and provinces and director generals of reconciliation and general courts regarding administrative and judicial affairs in their jurisdiction; matters concerning pardons and amnesties; the transfer of judges; participation in the commission responsible for transfers, the retirement of judges and [words indistinct].

Prosecutor General Mr Rabbani-amlashi, member of the supreme judicial council, will supervise matters concerning the transfers of judges in public prosecutors offices; the promotion of judges; meeting the needs of the ministry of justice with regard to the recruitment of judges and the retirement of judges in public prosecutors' offices; applications from the head of administrative and financial affairs: the department of inspectorate and its affairs; the public relations office and affairs concerning prisoners and prisons throughout the country; applications from provincial and town public prosecutors; and administrative and judicial affairs in their jurisdiction and matters concerning civil courts.

The director general of the supreme judicial council secretariat added that supreme judicial council member Mr Motada'i will handle matters concerning judicial jurisdiction; the appropriate places for Islamic Revolution courts to be formed and the

number of branches they should have--the proposals to be presented to the council for approval after due investigation; the investigation of complaints made against religious judges and against revolutionary institutions in courts--appeals against sentences; investigation of the affairs of guild courts, anti-drug smuggling courts, and courts dealing with offences prohibited under Islam.

He said that, according to decisions made in the supreme judicial council at its sessions No 176, 177 and 178, the responsibilities allocated to Mr Javadi-'amoli, member of the supreme judicial council, will include matters concerning education and research and determining the policies to be followed with regard to the problems of revolution courts and prosecutors' offices. Also according to the recent decisions made by the supreme judicial council, the responsibilities allocated to Mr Mohammad Mo'men, a member of the supreme judicial council, include recruitment, assessment of qualifications, testing and finally assessment of religious knowledge for revolution courts and civil courts; signing the letter informing those judges who have been accepted in their interviews of their training period; theological questions raised by religious judges; meeting the recruitment needs and shortages in the revolution courts; liaison between the revolution prosecutor's office and the supreme judicial council; forming and investigating supreme courts, revolution courts, military courts and guards corps courts and the judicial organization of the armed forces.

The director general of the supreme judicial council secretariat finally added that, according to the decisions made by the supreme judicial council, the responsibilities allocated to Mr Seyyed Mohammad 'Ashghari, the minister of justice, include matters related to liaison between the ministry of justice and other ministries, and matters related to bills, defending the bills and steering them through the council of ministers, commissions and the Islamic Majlis.

CSO: 4640/55

BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT KHAMENEH'I PUBLISHED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 6 Oct 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Hojjatoleslam Seyyed 'Ali Khameneh'i was born in 1318 [21 Mar 39-20 Mar 40] in a clerical family in the holy city of Mashhad.

His father, Hoffatoleslam Haj Seyyed Javad Khameneh'i, was one of the pious and devout religious leaders of Mashhad and his mother was the daughter of Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Hashem Najafabadi. After completing his primary education he began the study of religious sciences at the Navvab school in the city. During this period he benefited from the teachings of such personalities as Ayatollah Milani and Ayatollah Haj Sheikh Hashem Qazvini. He also spent 2 years of training in Mashhad.

During 1957-1958 he made a pilgrimage to Holy Najaf and returned home after a brief period. He went to Qom in 1958-1959 and improved his knowledge as a pupil of such masters as grand Ayatollah Borujerdi, Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Ha'eri. During the 5 June uprising and the start of Imam Khomeyni's prophetic movement, he was at the leader's side, and he was arrested in Birjand while carrying the Imam's message concerning the Ashura of 1963-1964 to Ayatollah Milani. Also, he and a number of religious teachers set up a secret religiously-oriented organization in the parish which was discovered, resulting in the arrests of Ayatollah Montazeri and Ayatollah Rabbani. He and a few others went into hiding. During 1963-1964 Mr Khameneh'i once again returned to Mashhad where he was under constant harrassment and threat from SAVAK and agents of the extinct shah. Nevertheless he energetically devoted himself to teaching religious principles and the system of religious law to scholars. His discourses on "Nahjolbalagheh" [Imam Ali's book revered by Shi'ites as second after the Holy Koran] and his religious analyses attracted various groups of people, particularly the interested young generation.

During all of his life he moved in the vanguard of the Islamic revolution and resurgence, being imprisoned 6 times between 1964 and 1979 in solitary confinement.

Upon release from prison during 1975-1976, he expanded ideological teachings on comparative and analytical religious issues and furthered Islamic and revolutionary thought in the younger generation by his fiery speeches throughout the country and during 1977-1978, he along with a number of committed religious personalities, drew up a plan of religious militancy in the country. In the same year he was exiled to Iranshahr and then to Jiroft. During his terms of imprisonment as well as exiles he was never free from SAVAK's harrassment and repression.

As the Islamic revolution of the people gathered strength, Hojjatoleslam Khameneh'i became a member of the Revolutionary Council at the invitation of the martyred Ayatollah Mathari and the approval of Imam Khomeyni.

Following the victory of the revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, he served in sensitive reamparts in addition to his continued membership in the Revolutionary Council: Representative of the Revolutionary Council in the Ministry of Defense, acting head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards corps, the Imam's representative on the Higher Defense Council, a deputy of the people of Teheran in the Majlis, Friday prayer leader of Reheran, and finally elected president of the republic in the recent elections which gave him a decisive majority with 16,007,972 votes.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran is also the author of such publications as "The Future Islam's Realm" which came out in 1965-1966 and was banned at that time; "Muslims in India's Freedom Movement"; "The Indictment of Western Culture," translation; "The Peace of Imam Hassan," a translation; "General Islamic Thought in the Koran"; "Patience"; "The Depths of Prayer"; "The Life of Imam Sadeq"; "Lessons From Nahjolbalagheh"; "A Collection of Speeches." With the outbreak of the imposed war, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran put on the uniform of battle and by visiting war fronts and talking with the Islamic warriors not only uplifted their morale but also looked into problems and shortcomings. With the help of other members of the Higher Defense Council he also devoted attention to the organization of the armed forces. On 27 Jan 81 he was wounded during a public speech when a bomb hidden in a tape recorder by hypocrite-troublemakers at the Abazar Mosque exploded but he soon regained his health. After his recovery he has consistently stated: "I feel that the renewed chance of life has been bestowed by God so that I may serve Islam and the people so much more."

Hojjatoleslam Khameneh'i who was unanimously voted as secretary-general of the Islamic Republican Party following the martyrdom of Dr Bahonar is married and has 4 children.

5854
CSO: 4640/38

BRIEFS

'HYPOCRITES' ASSASSINATE BOOKSHOP OWNER--According to the Mashhad Islamic Revolution Guards Corps public relations office, this morning one of our Muslim compatriots was assassinated in his bookshop by two mercenaries belonging to the hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. He was admitted to the hospital but died minutes after his arrival. The revolution guards report adds that after leaving the bookshop the assassins opened fire on two pedestrians, wounding one in the arm and the other in the abdomen. They were admitted to the hospital. The terrorists managed to escape after stealing a motorcycle. According to the same report, the condition of the wounded persons is satisfactory. [Text] [GF181544 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Nov 81]

CONFISCATION OF FARMLAND ALLEGED--Western political observers in Tehran believe that a new crisis will engulf the Islamic Republic in the near future. According to these observers, after the establishment of the Islamic regime many of the Mullahs ruling Iran have taken back farmland from farmers who had acquired ownership during the past regime. (?These Mullahs have now) become big landowners. This group of land-owning Mullahs oppose the land reform bill and the distribution of land to farmers. The opinion of (?this faction) of Mullahs is that throughout the history of Islam farmers have always been subject to the clergy and that this is the way they should continue to be. [Text] [NC191710 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Nov 81]

MUSAVI, KHAMENEI MEET PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS--According to a Pars correspondent report governors-general from all over the country, in a meeting attended by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, studied and exchanged views on the problems of the various provinces. Central news unit report states that the governors-general met and had talks this morning with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. During this session, attended by Gharazi, minister of petroleum, Ghafuri, minister of energy; Parvaresh, minister of education and training; Nikravesh, minister of interior; and under-secretaries and advisers from the ministry of the interior, the current problems of the various provinces were discussed. Talks also took place about the manner of contacts to be established by the governors-general with the council of government, the problems of the provinces and on holding joint seminars between the governors-general and the council of government. [Text] [LD201320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 81]

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON MIANDUAB EXECUTIONS--The barbaric regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni has executed 4 Kurdish and 10 Azari youths in the city of Mianduab. The executions took place 20 November. [Text] [GF231600 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1300 GMT 23 Nov 81]

CAUTION URGED IN MAKING WAR CLAIMS

London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 p 63

[Text] SABAH KACHACHI, the Iraqi ministry of planning's chief industrial advisor, has warned that foreign firms seeking compensation for losses incurred on work in Iraq delayed by the Gulf war will face tough negotiations. The warning came just as Yohei Mimura, president of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation, was preparing to visit Baghdad in the hope of settling the firm's claims on projects in Iraq, including Baghdad's \$95m parade square and a new national museum.

Kachachi urged firms to refrain from jumping onto a 'get rich quick' bandwagon. He told *8 Days*: 'Firms have the right to submit claims, but they make the mistake of comparing Iraq to other Gulf states. Here they are dealing with a system, and an underdeveloped system at that. If they want a fast buck they should go somewhere else.' Government officials believe that some foreign contractors may be viewing the claims procedures as a way of turning their own inefficiency to advantage. While they acknowledge there are companies with legitimate rights to compensation, they suggest that others will be casting seed on very stony ground.

It is the Japanese who have been hardest hit by the delays and shortages prompted by the war. Another firm due to open talks is Toa Harbour Works Company, part of a consortium with Sumitomo Heavy Industries and Marubeni Corporation which won a \$232m contract to carry out work on the second phase of Khor al Zubair port three years ago. Other Japanese firms have already submitted claims, and the list of foreign companies seeking damages is growing fast. At least two British concerns have entered the race and others are expected to follow.

'The Iraqis have not been all that sympathetic. But they have been helpful in expanding contract time, which is a form of cash assistance,' one diplomat said, and suggested that in some cases the lure of further business had been offered to divert companies from making claims.

The authorities are certainly looking more favourably on firms caught at the outbreak of the war, in areas like Basra that were immediately affected. Other companies, whose personnel downed tools on projects away from the fighting, are not being taken seriously.

The director general of foreign economic relations at Iraq's ministry of trade, Faruq al Ubaidi, said that the principle of claims has already been conceded where the original terms of a contract have made due provision. But he stressed that each case would be examined on its individual merit, and accused some firms of 'fishing in troubled waters. A case will be considered provided the firm did not leave the country, or demonstrate any reluctance to carry on,' he said. 'In cases where a firm left the site, such behaviour cannot be tolerated.'

'Some enterprises have already been compensated, for example over the closure of Basra port. Others have asked for loans. Compensation is not necessarily financial. It can be through an extension to a contract, because delays cost money.'

Whether much cash has been handed out or not remains largely a matter of conjecture, although observers believe most concessions have come in time extensions and further business. In any event, talks are likely to be lengthy and subject to protracted wrangling in the slow-moving bureaucratic machinery. 'Millions of dinars will not be handed out on a silver platter,' Kachachi said. 'But if you deserve something you will get it.'

CSO: 4400/68

IRAQ

BRIEFS

EXTRA OIL TO INDIA--Iraq has offered to supply 1.5m tonnes of crude oil to India next year, in addition to the 3.5m tonnes already pledged, according to the Indian oil minister, P. C. Sethi. India will decide on the offer within the month, after it reviews its oil needs. The price quoted for the additional supplies is 60 cents a barrel above that for the 3.5m tonnes, because of higher shipping costs. India was importing some 6m tonnes of crude from Iraq annually before the Gulf war. Supplies so far this year total some 0.6m tonnes, said Sethi. India also gets oil from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Algeria. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 p 67]

CSO: 4400/68

JORDAN

BRIEFS

BAN ON EGYPTIAN AUTHOR'S WORKS--Amman, 10 Nov (PETRA)--Upon the recommendation of the Main Bureau for Boycotting Israel, Mr Ahmad al-'Utum, director of the Press and Publication Bureau, has decided to ban the entry and distribution of all the writings and other literary works of Egyptian writer Anis Mansur due to his sympathies for Israel and his support for the peace treaty, in addition to his effective role in bolstering Egyptian-Israeli relations. The director of the Press and Publication Bureau has also decided to ban the entry and distribution of medium-size copies of the holy Koran, which were printed by the Egyptian press and its library in 1963. [Text] [JN101706 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Nov 81]

CSO: 4404/125

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

PM261639 Paris LE MONDE in French 22-23 Nov 81 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan: "The State Institutions Will be Preserved"--date and place not given, first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] In answering our questions Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan was kind enough to explain to us the progress made in normalizing the situation in Lebanon and the difficulties which this enterprise is encountering.

[Question] What progress has been made since the April 1981 events in paving the way for a solution to the Lebanese crisis in the framework of the four-party Arab Vigilance Committee?

[Answer] Despite the obstacles it has encountered, the efforts and approaches made by the four-party Vigilance Committee have produced positive results, the most important being the fact that the cease-fire is still in force. Of course, circumstances are still difficult, but the determination of an entire people who have decided to shoulder responsibility for their own destiny prompts us to be optimistic.

[Question] What are the major obstacles which you encounter in the sphere of strengthening security and consolidating national accord?

[Answer] We cannot deny the existence of some uncontrolled armed forces which have found in our country a fertile ground for their partisan struggles and confrontations. There would not even be any point in denying that the Lebanese Government is unfortunately handicapped in face of these forces, whose means for action far outweigh those of the government. There are many reasons for this, stemming from the tragic circumstances created by Israel's hostile, aggressive and expansionist policy toward the Palestinian people who have been expelled from their national territory. These people have been forced to disperse among the Arab countries. These same circumstances have meant that Lebanon has long borne the main burden of the Palestinian problem, with its inevitable complications. They have also enabled some suspect forces to push Lebanon toward explosion and disaster, to exploit circumstances and internal blunders to fuel the fire which, for more than 7 years, has been gaining ground and ravaging the Lebanese people's lives, goods, hope and future.

[Question] An upsurge of Lebanese nationalism can be observed in all Lebanon's Muslim communities. Do you think that that is likely to favor the settlement of the Lebanese crisis?

[Answer] The phenomenon to which you refer is not new. The Muslims have long and energetically opposed any policy intended to harm Lebanon's unity, territorial integrity and independence. Of course, in our view and our concept of the Lebanese problem, Lebanese nationalism is linked to the broader framework of Arab nationalism. But this connection in no way undermines Lebanon's specific conditions, its independence or the agreement which exists among its citizens on the general principles which make this country a remarkable experiment and a model which should be followed everywhere where similar conditions exist to those prevailing in Lebanon.

[Question] How do you plan to remove the objections made by some circles in Lebanon to the use of the army as a vital tool for restoring the state's authority?

[Answer] We are convinced that, unless the state has the decisive force which the Lebanese Army represents, it will inevitably find it impossible to establish law and order in the country and impose its sovereignty over the whole Lebanese territory. Nonetheless we make no secret of the fact that the present state of the Lebanese Army necessitates major reforms and substantial reassessments and corrections if it is to be able to assume its proper role, in other words to become the army of the Lebanese nation and all Lebanese citizens.

[Question] The year 1982 promises to be crucial. Do you think that the election of the new president of the republic will go smoothly, thereby safeguarding the country's institutions?

[Answer] The Lebanese Parliament, whose job it is to elect the new president of the republic, has proved in many delicate and serious situations that it is capable of shouldering its national responsibilities. This encourages me to think that the election of the new president will go smoothly and thus safeguard the state, its institutions and its future. It is also necessary to note the firm will of the Lebanese people who, after many disastrous years, are more determined than ever not to allow any attack on the values which I have just mentioned. Should the worst happen and we, for one reason or another, find it impossible to elect a new president, the cabinet has to take on responsibility of executive power under the terms of the constitution. Legality will thus be maintained and preserved.

CSO: 4419/7

LEBANON

LEBANESE-CUBAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CREATED

PM191113 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Nov 81 p 4

[Unattributed report: "At Meeting Sponsored by National Movement: A Lebanese-Cuban Friendship Society"]

[Text] The establishment of a Lebanese-Cuban Friendship Society and the launching next week of "a campaign for solidarity with the Cuban revolution and the revolutionary movement in Latin America" were announced at the headquarters of the National Movement Central Political Council yesterday.

The meeting [at the headquarters] was attended by the leaders of the "national movement" and its affiliated parties and by Deputies Zahir al-Khatib and Najah Wakim.

Ilyas al-Habr, chairman of the National Federation of Trade Unions and Employees in Lebanon, delivered a speech in which he said: "Our initiative today is not simply one of loyalty to the Cuban revolution's attitude toward the struggle of our people, the Arab people and the Palestinian revolution; it is a confirmation of the bonds of joint struggle that bind our two peoples [the Lebanese and Cuban peoples] and the Arab people against the common enemy, against American imperialism and its stooges."

He added that the purpose of founding the society "is to emphasize the support of the broadest sectors of our people for the Cuban revolution, which is now being subjected to insolent threats by American officials--threats that have reached the point of preparations for a new American invasion of Cuban territory.... Under the guise of assisting the national liberation movements, Washington and its agents in the area do not hesitate to provoke and threaten Cuba and to spread infectious diseases in the island's sky as though Cuba and Nicaragua were behind the tragedies imposed by the American monopolies on the peoples of the American continent.... [Sentence as published]

"Any future invasion Washington ventures to carry out will meet the same fate as the American Bay of Pigs invasion 20 years ago."

He called on "all who cherish the cause of peace and people's freedom to raise their voice in solidarity with the island of freedom."

Nasir al-As'ad, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Action Organization, read out the list of names of those who have agreed to join the society and suggested to those present that they agree to establish an administrative body under the chairmanship of al-Habr. They agreed.

(David Pavlovich), Cuban Embassy charge d'affaires, also spoke. He said: "The formation of the society is a culmination of the Lebanese people's solidarity with the Cuban people since the eruption of the Cuban revolution. It is a qualitative step in raising the level of solidarity with the people of Cuba at a time when the American threats against Cuba have begun to take a serious turn."

CSO: 4404/125

LEBANON

BRIEFS

ISRAELI INVASION PLANS--Beirut, 22 Nov (JANA)--The Lebanese magazine AL-KIFAH AL-ARABI yesterday said the Zionist enemy is planning to overrun southern Lebanon before its alleged pullout from occupied Sinai. The paper quoted informed sources as saying that the planned Israeli military attack is designed to push back the joint Lebanese and Palestinian forces to the city of Sidon and the Kharrub and Albiqa' regions. Then, the Israelis will bargain through the Americans and West Europeans for declaring southern Lebanon a no-go region for the Palestinians. The Israelis will also call for the demilitarisation of the region except for the presence there of UN forces. In return, the Israelis will offer their withdrawal from the Lebanese border region. [Text] [LD221032 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 22 Nov 81]

CSO: 4400/64

ENVOY COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

BK201142 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] Canberra, 20 Nov (AFP)--Trade between Australia and Libya is increasing rapidly with friendships growing between the two countries.

Making this clear at a press conference today, the secretary of the People's Committee, the ambassador of Libya to Australia, Mr Suleiman Oreibi, said there has been an increase from a \$65 million to over a \$200 million (U.S. \$7.4 million to \$228 million) in the last year in trade.

Mr Oreibi said much of this increase came from discussions with visiting delegations who had made agreements covering the future.

The press conference was called to emphasise Libya's desire for the closest relations with Australia, recognising that even if Australia under the Anzus Agreement was an ally of the U.S.A., "friendly Australian people would be prepared to study the Libyan point of view."

Since January 1981, the Australian Government and several state governments had invited Libyans, involving 44 people, on special missions.

"Some of the state governments have agricultural projects in Libya where many Australians are working full time assisting agriculture in the Jamahiriya. Many Australians are travelling to Libya to work on oil projects. They are developing close, friendly relations with the Libyan people," Mr Oreibi said.

Students from Libya were now joining Australian universities and generally it was hoped by the Libyan Government that not only trade, but general understanding across the world between Australia and Libya would grow, he said.

Mr Oreibi denounced the continuing American campaign against Libya and dismissed with scorn any suggestion of the sudden death or assassination of Libya's leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. He referred to the "intrusion of the American Sixth Fleet into the Gulf of Sidra last August and the American military exercises in Egypt" as evidence of aggression against the Arab nation.

Mr Oreibi assured the Australian press that Libyan access to the Australian Government leaders was frequent and friendly.

CSO: 4500/54

LIBYA

BRIEFS

REPORT ON MILITARY MANEUVERS—The military maneuvers which are being staged by the aggressive American rapid deployment forces on Egyptian territory entered their decisive phase yesterday with an air attack in which 1,000 American soldiers participated. With the help of the American AWACS planes, the fighter planes attempted to ward off an attack carried out by the American B-52 type bomber planes, which unleashed their bombs on targets on Egyptian territory close to the Libyan border. Thus, the American maneuvers have assumed different forms since they began on 14 November with a view to intimidating the Arab people, who have become certain that America is their archenemy. [Text] [NC230944 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Nov 81]

DELEGATE SPEAKS ABOUT U.S. 'THREATS'—New York, 23 Nov (JANA)—The Libyan delegate [to the United Nations] in New York has had a meeting with the chairman of the UN Security Council. He informed the chairman about the blatant American threats and the subversive terrorist activities carried out by America against the people of the Jamahiriyyah. He also told him about the American campaigns of deception and accusations which fall within the American preparations for premeditated aggression against the Jamahiriyyah. The JANA correspondent in New York has learned that the chairman of the UN Security Council will acquaint members of the council with what the Libyan delegate submitted during the meeting, which took place within the framework of enlightening world public opinion and peace and security-loving forces about American threats and the provocative moves aimed at aggression against the Jamahiriyyah. [Text] [LD231646 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Nov 81]

CSO: 4504/92

INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES

Kuwait OAPEC BULLETIN in English No 10, Oct 81 pp 16-19

[Interview with Muhammed Mukhtar Ould Zamel, minister of mines and energy, with OAPEC BULLETIN: "The Energy Situation in Mauritania: Interview With Minister of Mines And Energy"]

[Text] In energy scarce Mauritania, where a very large area is a desert wasteland, the Western Sahara conflict and the prolonged drought years have left the country with an ailing economy, lacking the infrastructure needed to meet its basic energy requirements.

The urgent task facing Mauritania's planners today is to create links between the mining sector, providing 80% of Mauritania's foreign exports revenue and other sectors of the economy. A number of foreign financial institutions, including Arab interests, have invested in the mining sector in Mauritania. The Société Nationale Industrielle et Minière (SNIM), the state research instrument, is owned (49%) by the governments of Iraq and Morocco, the Kuwait Foreign Trading Company and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The Bank also provides loans to finance Mauritania's oil imports, from Saudi Arabia or any other IDB member.

According to a recent agreement with Saudi Arabia, Mauritania's crude oil imports will be processed abroad and Mauritania will import its product requirements, until the Nouadhibou refinery becomes operational. Construction of the one million tons a year refinery has been reactivated by Algeria's Sonatrach and is expected to come onstream in 1983. The construction of the refinery was first undertaken by an Austrian firm in 1974 but start-up was delayed as a result of the war and defects in the refinery construction.

Oil exploration in Mauritania has proved discouraging so far. Texaco-Exxon relinquished its onshore permit in the Taoudenit basin in June 1975 and Shell its deepwater concession in December 1975. Later exploration was jointly carried out by Hispanoil (operator), Getty Oil, Agip and Phillips in 1977, but no commercial discoveries were made.

In the following interview with the *OAPEC Bulletin*, Mauritania's Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Muhammed Mukhtar Ould Zamel, shed some light on exploratory activity, the energy situation and energy developments in Mauritania, particularly with regard to the country's energy sources, consumption, and the efforts made to organize the energy sector in preparation for the Second Arab Energy Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar, 1982.

Q. The First Arab Energy Conference, recommended the formation of national energy committees. What steps has Mauritania taken in this regard? What government organ or body is now in charge of energy matters in your country?

A. The energy sector, of particular interest to all countries of the world, is of major concern to us in Mauritania. Until one month ago, energy matters were handled by various bodies, which had led to dispersed efforts and impeded comprehensive planning in this vital sector. Due to the importance of this sector and acting upon the recommendations of the First Arab Energy Conference, held in Abu Dhabi in 1979, the Ministry of Energy and Mines is now in charge of formulating the country's energy options, particularly with regard to the formation of a national committee. The committee will lay down the country's unified policy, taking into account the producing and consuming sectors as well as energy consumption patterns, regardless of the energy source. The energy sector, which was neglected in the past, is now given priority as we endeavor to meet our energy requirements, especially since we lack the natural resources needed for consumption.

Q. What are your main sources of energy, domestic sources in particular?

A. Energy sources in Mauritania, are: a) *wood and charcoal*, used primarily to meet between 80-90% of the total requirements of household consumption, and providing all energy requirements in rural areas. The share of this source in Mauritania's total energy consumption exceeds 60%, which indicates the importance of this source at present. We realize, however, the finite nature of these resources in a country where 80% of the area is a desert. b) *petroleum products*, imported in part from the Senegal while the bulk is purchased on the free market. We are now heading toward reliance on crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia. The Saudi crude will be processed in Europe according to an agreement with the European side, which will come into effect at the end of September 1981.

Q. What is your total consumption of petroleum products?

Local consumption of petroleum products averages 130,000 tons per year at present. This includes about 80,000 tons of gas oil used for heating, cooling, power generation and transport, and 50,000 tons of various other products. Gasoline alone, comprises about 30% of the country's total consumption of products. A rising trend in consumption patterns is expected next year. Consumption peaked in 1978, reaching 175,000 tons and then fell back following the shut down of a copper mine, 250 km. off the coast. The mine and its ancillary transport facilities consumed a large share of our petroleum products.

It is relevant in this context to refer to the oil refinery which is currently being established at Nouadhibou, 450 kms (north) from Nouakchott. The refinery which will become operational early next year, with a design capacity of one million tons per year, is based on the design of the Algerian Hassi Masoud refinery. Plans are underway for preparing the technical staff needed to manage and operate the refinery. We presently have a number of trainees in Qatar; others are being sent abroad. A \$3 million budget has already been allocated for training purposes. Concerning the refinery output, we have a plan for optimum operation, to produce at levels above local consumption requirements, at a rate to be determined later. The surplus will be directed toward the export market.

Q. Are there any oil exploratory efforts going on at present?

Efforts are being made in several directions. We currently have a project, co-financed by the World Bank, aimed at preparing the legal and administrative framework to boost oil exploration in Mauritania. The project has already led us to a new evaluation of available data and a new study of the offshore and Taoudenit basins. Some companies have shown interest in the results of the study but negotiations are still at an early stage. As for our own past efforts, the amounts we have discovered were noncommercial. The field of exploration is very complicated and it is very difficult for countries which lack the necessary expertise and accurate data to undertake such activities.

Q. How would you outline your priorities with regard to energy in the future?

We are moving in two directions:

1. exploration for natural resources including both oil and coal.

2. development of alternative energy sources, particularly solar and wind energy, abundant in a coastal, desert country like Mauritania. The technology available to us in this field remains at a primary level of scientific research and the financial and human resources needed for its development are beyond Mauritania's potential at present. We hope to catch up in the future as we become more scientifically equipped to harness these two major resources.

Q. What are the opportunities for cooperation with other Arab countries in the field of energy?

Cooperation with other Arab countries can be achieved through:

1. formulation of technical guidelines for oil exploration.
2. import of crude oil through trade exchange relations.
3. refinery construction, operation and provision of technical staff.

In the future, the scope of cooperation may include:

1. the use of Arab expertise in oil exploration.
2. participation in the development of alternative energy sources as part of the activities of the new institute we have decided to establish for this purpose. This project will require resources that are not at present available to us. We expect to establish this institute within the next few months with a view to developing solar and wind energy and to producing equipment more suitable to Mauritania's local energy consumption.
3. a third area of cooperation includes securing crude supplies for domestic consumption, which will enable us to become independent of foreign companies, through direct deals between Mauritania and the Arab countries.

CSO: 4500/55

COUNTRY'S FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSED

London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 pp 66-67

[Article by Annie King-Underwood]

[Text] FOR FOREIGN companies looking to tap the modest Omani market, the recipe is the same as in most Gulf states: form joint ventures. The snags, as one British businessman with long experience in Muscat has found, are that: 'The goodwill is there and the regulations are clear, but on a practical level there is some sort of confusion.'

The Middle East Association's Tim Owen, who visited the country recently reiterated this view in his published report: 'Omani businessmen are interested in setting up joint ventures with British firms, though some are rather vague as to how to set about it.'

The visitor to Oman soon realises that oil revenues are filtering down to the public. And besides increased state social and welfare budgets, there are now more private businesses setting up.

The second five year plan makes it clear that Oman will continue to follow the laissez-faire approach to trade. Indeed, to apply 'a free economic system based on market economy and free competition' is one of the plan's chief targets. For Owen, it was clear that: 'Small businesses are setting up apace. And it is accepted practice for those employed by the government and the oil company to run their own businesses on the side, often with great ingenuity.'

The rise of the smaller businesses can be attributed to the loans on favourable terms that are being provided by various government funds. Under the first five year plan the government established a fishermen's support fund (to provide modern boats, motors, nets and other equipment), for

example, and similar funds were set up to help farmers and others in agriculture. The Development Bank of Oman was created to provide medium- and long-term financing to the private sector.

The second five year plan also aims to 'provide for the creation of a national economy based on private enterprise and free from monopolistic practices.'

It adds: 'For this purpose the government envisages extending to the private sector — to the degree permitted by the availability of resources — various incentives, tax exemptions and concessional loans... (and is looking to) participate in the equity of vital projects.'

The regulations on joint-venture formation in Oman are no stricter than in other Gulf states. The law permits a foreign company to do business in Oman provided it does so through an Omani company which has a minimum paid-up capital of Omani riyal 150,000 (\$430,000). This sum may be reduced to a final minimum of OR 30,000 (\$85,000) if deemed advisable by the Foreign Investment Committee, in accordance with reasonable economic evidence adduced by the committee and supported by the minister of commerce and industry, subject to the approval of the Development Council.'

The foreign company must also have Omani partners with at least a 35 per cent share of both capital and profits. But the Commercial Agencies Law (Royal Decree 26/77) requires Omani participation of at least 51 per cent in such agencies. The appointment of local agents is very strictly enforced.

However, finding agents in Oman at the moment is not easy, as the market is very small and the number of businessmen involved in agency work limited. It is expected that this problem will soon be resolved, as local businesses start feeling the benefit of government support.

CSO: 4400/68

OMAN

BRIEFS

JAPANESE OIL EXPLORATION--Nippon Company and Taikoko of Japan were last week awarded a six-year oil exploration concession in Oman. According to a government statement, the Japanese firms will spend \$104m on exploring oil in a 3.9m hectare area between Bar al Hickman and Afar, some 200km south of Muscat. Under the contract, Oman would get between 82 and 87 per cent of any oil. A 1978 study showed Oman to have an estimated 6bn barrels of reserves. The sultanate currently produces about 300,000b/d. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 p 66]

CSO: 4400/68

GCC CONSIDERING IMPORT TARIFFS

London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 p 69

[Text] THE industry ministers of the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council recommended the introduction of import tariffs to protect domestic products to the 10 November GCC summit meeting held in Riyadh.

European industry chiefs have refrained from comment — it is not known what form the tariffs will take or what commodities will be affected most. The marketing director of a British company which exports construction material to the Gulf said: 'So far we do not know what is meant by import tariffs in this context and we do not know what type of products will be penalised the highest.'

The industry ministers of GCC members Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman met for two days in Riyadh at the end of last month. The meeting's chairman, Saudi Minister of Industry Ghazi al Gosaibi, said that the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting had been asked to conduct studies on the iron and steel industry, the marketing of petrochemical products and the establishment of joint projects.

Gulf business circles take the minister's comments to mean that iron and steel will be one of the first commodities to be subject to high tariffs. They also expect cement, food products, particularly canned food, and petrochemical byproducts such as detergents to be on the tariff list.

Gosaibi also said that the industry ministerial committee had successfully formulated a framework within which various organisations could carry out different assignments all aiming to achieve economic unity between the six states. He was con-

dent that the Gulf states would be able to duplicate the EEC model.

The industry ministers decided to form a subcommittee consisting of the heads of national companies involved with basic industries and using local resources. It will be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the ministerial committee as they relate to achieving self-sufficiency, lessening dependence on foreign imports and expertise and unifying pace and style of development.

Another body, a technical cooperation committee, will be set up to liaise with the GCC General Secretariat to devise a system for exchange of information on industrial projects and draw up plans for statistical information concerning industrial activity in the Gulf. This committee will hold its first meeting in Bahrain early next month.

Western businessmen are adopting a wait and see attitude to the new proposals — mainly because similar decisions have been reached in the past but not implemented. However, the number of concrete decisions taken in Riyadh suggests that things might be different this time. Abdullah Bishara, secretary general of the GCC, told newsmen that 'barely four months into our first year we already have an impressive record in achieving what we set out to do.' He added that the GCC was working at a very fast rate in order to ensure the implementation of all the necessary steps to achieve economic unity.

CSO: 4400/71

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR RELEASES CRIME STATISTICS

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 27 Oct 81 pp 3 & 16

[Text] RIYADH, Oct. 26 (SPA) — The Interior Ministry Monday reaffirmed that Saudi Arabia continues to record the minimum rate of criminal incidents. According to official statistics, the crime rate represents a reasonable average if compared to any other state, especially taking into consideration the comprehensive development in all fields and importing manpower of different nationalities.

The Ministry said the low rate of criminal incidents and prevalence of security and stability in a manner unmatched by any other country are the direct results of the application of the Islamic law (Sharia) in the country.

The Annual Statistical Book of the Interior Ministry for the year 1400 H (1980) dealt with the activities of the ministry and the departments connected with it. It said there was a drop in the number of some criminal incidents in comparison to those of the past year, adding that there were 460 physical assaults during 1980 with a drop of 111 incidents as compared to 1979.

The incidents included 87 premeditated murders, showing a decline of 28 incidents over the previous year; 21 accidental homicides that equaled the number for 1979; and 160 attempted murders which was 35 percent less than 1980. These incidents also included 65 murder threats, 25 percent less than last year's; 56 suicide cases showing an increase of 29 cases over 1979; and 71 attempted suicides, 12 percent less than 1979.

During 1980 there were 2,797 cases of theft, which represented 24 percent of total criminal cases but were 208 cases less than the previous year. These cases included: (1) 865 cases of car theft showing a decrease of 52 cases over 1979, (2) 606 house thefts with a fall of 1.3 percent (3) 488 thefts in commercial establishments with an increase of 57 cases over the last year (4) 299 cases of property theft, 137 less than the past year (5) 539 miscellaneous thefts.

There were 1,406 moral crimes this year,

which formed 12 percent of the total criminal cases with a slight increase over the previous year. The 2,797 cases pertaining to alcoholics included drinking, distilling and possessing of liquor — registering 24.2 percent of the total criminal cases with an increase of 104 cases over the last year. There were 21 cases of bribery this year; 153 cases of forgery and imposture, which was 1.3 percent of the total criminal cases. The cases of speculation numbered 3,252, recording 28 percent of the total criminal cases. Meanwhile, 41 cases of kidnapping were reported this year.

Summing up, the statistical book said there were 11,536 criminal cases this year as compared to 11,143 cases during 1979, with an increase of 393 cases. The number of criminals involved in these cases was 12,182, which shows a marked proximity between the number of cases and their perpetrators. These cases, however, occurred at the level of individuals and not organizations or gangs. The number of Saudi Arabian criminals was 8,021 or 66 percent and foreigners 4,161, or 34 percent.

The 87 cases of murder were committed by 64 persons, of whom 33 were Saudi Arabians and 31 other nationals. The 127 cases of suicide and attempted suicide were committed by 77 Saudis and 50 non-Saudis. The 21 cases of bribery involved 25 persons, of whom 17 were non-Saudis. Of the 44 cases of forgery, 38 were committed by non-Saudis. Likewise, the 12 cases of counterfeiting were committed by 12 persons including 10 non-Saudis.

A review of the criminal cases would show that 63.2 percent accused were involved in secondary cases as compared to principal cases such as premeditated murder. Further, 3,166 accused, or 26.9 percent, were charged with liquor cases, teasing of women and forbidden privacy. While these are not considered as punishable crimes in other countries, Saudi Arabia which applies the Sharia considers them so. Moreover, the statistical

book mentioned that there were 7,953 detainees this year, of whom 4,331 were Saudis and 3,622 were non-Saudis.

Meanwhile, Interior Undersecretary Dr. Ibrahim Al-Awaji said that the contents of the statistical book reflect the activities of the various departments of the Interior Ministry having a bearing, directly or indirectly, on the interests and welfare of the citizens. He added that the figures represent a normal situation, and even less in percentage if compared with the crimes perpetrated in other countries. He said that the all-out development in the country and job opportunities have tempted many people from Arab and other states to come and benefit from those opportunities. He said the Kingdom welcomed their participation in accordance with the residence rules for aliens, but will never accept any disrespect to the rules and regulations as well as the Arab customs and traditions.

According to the statistics, there were 2,634 cases of narcotics during 1980 as against 2,732 during the year preceding, which registered a drop of 98 cases or 5 percent. It added that 36.5 percent of the total accused in narcotics cases were foreigners.

In the case of traffic, the statistical book said that 346,363 number plates were issued during 1980, as against 290,207 in 1979, 22,805 in 1971. Of these, 197,029 were private cars, 142,423 transport vehicles, 4,413 coasters and 1,478 motorcycles. The essential reasons for the stupendous increase in the number of vehicles has been the increase in population, in addition to the vast span of the country which makes it necessary for the people to own transportation. The other factors that contribute to the rise in the number of vehicles are the high purchasing power of the individuals, low customs duty, the state's intervention in specifying the profit for car dealers and the low cost of fuel. The book said that in 1971 there were 144,768 vehicles registered, whereas their number rose to 2,096,479 in 1980.

Likewise, 206,549 driving licenses were issued in 1980. Of the 18,758 traffic accidents, 16,218 people were injured and 731 were killed. Comparing the traffic accidents to the Kingdom's population, the accident rate was 208 per 100,000 people. The number of injured per 100,000 was 180 people and the number of killed was 30 per 100,000.

As regards incoming vehicles during the pilgrimage season, 14,690 vehicles entered

the Kingdom during the four days prior to the pilgrimage from the inlets of Halat Ammar, Riqqa, Salwa, Jizan and Najran. A total of 2,219,580 vehicles entered Makkah during 15/11/1400H and 9/12/1400H, and 2,084,960 vehicles made an exit from Makkah during the same period. Vehicles moving in and out of Arafat on 8, 9/12/1400H numbered 82,848 coming in and 34,371 going out.

Referring to civil defense, the report said the Kingdom-level fire-fighting operations during 1980 number 4,419 as against 3,870 in the year preceding. The number of those killed in these operations was 713 male and 98 female, with a material loss worth SR197,865,747. Likewise, there were 572 cases of rescue operation in 1980 as against 559 in the year preceding. In these operations, 1,025 male and 97 female died with a material loss of SR58,774,227.

The report said that during 1980, 1,431 people infiltrated into the country as against 977 during the past year. This showed an increase of 454 cases or 46 percent. In these cases, 7,999 infiltrators were arrested, as against 6,307 infiltrators in 1979. Smuggling cases numbered 779 as against 697, showing an increase of 12 percent.

Awaji said that Saudi Arabian nationality was granted to 1,124 persons during 1980. Of these, 546 were male and 578 female. The previous year the number of persons granted nationality was only 1,024. In regard to the College of Internal Security Forces, he said that the number of students in 1980 rose to 1,036, which was the biggest number in the history of the college. A total of 2,465 cadets have graduated from the college since its inception.

He referred to medical care for the military and civilian officials of the Public Security and said that the nucleus for this care was laid down with the inauguration of the Public Security Hospital in Riyadh. It was followed by a number of clinics that were opened in different areas. He added that the first phase of the hospital has been completed.

He also referred to the educational aspects and mentioned the role of the Officers' Institute, Cadets' Institute, Civil Defense Institute, Traffic Institute, Passports Institute, musical and physical training schools as well as shooting, language and horseracing schools. During the past decade, he said, 2,073 students were sent abroad for higher education and training. Of these, 979 were sent for a Bachelor's degree, 75 for the Master's degree and 19 for the doctorate. These students included 131 officers, 239 non-commissioned officers, 82 officials and 1,721 cadets. The third Five-Year plan needed 4,211 academicians and technicians, he added.

RENT CONTROLS TO BE LIFTED

London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 pp 6-7

[Text] IN A YEAR'S time, at the beginning of 1403AH, rent control is to be abolished in Saudi Arabia with the blessing of the religious authorities. Some Saudis in government and elsewhere, however, are arguing for a further freeze on rents. They fear that the abolition of rent control will add to the current strong inflationary pressures, and could also create a class conflict between landlords and tenants that Saudi Arabia's fledgling political institutions might not be able to contain. The debate provides one of the clearest examples in recent times of how Saudi religious forces influence the government and the Saud family in their running of the country.

The decontrolling of rents by 1403AH was legislated for in Resolution No. 231 of 4 November last year. In its preamble, the resolution suggested that the abolition of rent control would be possible next year because the housing crisis that had led to state intervention would be over. This assumption was questioned in an editorial

in the newspaper *Al Nadwa* in mid-September. The paper called for a further freeze. The measured reply of the clergy was carried in the national press in October.

The arguments were put forward by Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Baz, president of Saudi Arabia's religious research committee and one of the kingdom's most prominent clergymen. Free rents, he says are in harmony with the precepts of Islam and are in the public interest, while restricting rents is unjust to landlords and is an 'illegal usurpation' of their money, contrary to the divine orders and the instructions of the Prophet.

More practically, Sheikh Abdulaziz pointed to the measures taken by the government directly and through the Real

Estate Development Fund (REDF) to ease the housing shortage and to reduce rents, and said that any disputes between landlord and tenant as a result of decontrolled rents could be settled in the courts.

Sheikh Abdulaziz is an enigma figure on the Saudi scene, and his influence and standing with the government has fluctuated over the years. Now generally acknowledged as the leading figure in the ulema, he has often proved a thorn in the side of the authorities. King Faisal suppressed an article by the theologian on the flatness of the earth and also prevented him from assuming the position of Grand Mufti in 1967. Sheikh Abdulaziz was also the mentor of Juhaiman al Utaiba, leader of the 1980 Mecca occupation, but the two fought over the extent to which a fundamentalist reading of the Koran and Sunna required outright condemnation of the ruling family. Juhaiman wrote in one of his pamphlets: 'The ulema have warned the royal family about its corruption but Abdulaziz is in the family's pay and has endorsed their actions.' Sheikh Abdulaziz signed the fatwa authorising Juhaiman's execution after the Mecca siege.

For these reasons, the impact of Sheikh Abdulaziz's highly publicised remarks on the need to go through with the abolition of rent control has to be assessed with care. In general, however, the strength of the ulema has been growing over the past two years, and its advocacy of free-market rents could be interpreted as a muted demand for an end to the extensive state intervention that has characterised the Saudi economy in the past decade.

The government's success in alleviating the housing shortage and the performance of the REDF itself are open to debate.

Although the public housing programme has made considerable strides, there are still areas of deficient housing.

Since 1975, the REDF has made 150,000 loans worth Saudi riyals 30bn (\$8.7bn) to individuals and 150 loans worth SR1.5bn (\$439m) to developers, and has undoubtedly helped to ease the housing crisis. But it has an appalling record on repayment and replenishment, and has had to approach the government every year for fresh money to continue its programme. Only last month Crown Prince Fahd had to announce another effective rescheduling of REDF debts, allowing borrowers extensions of 60 rather than 30 days on payments, after which they are still eligible to a 20 per cent reduction of their capital liability.

The religious lobby's insistence on ending rent controls may help to ease the REDF's problems, even if it does boost inflation. This could help the housing programme to maintain momentum despite the likelihood of a general expenditure squeeze. But the overriding implication is that the religious authorities in Saudi Arabia are clearly pressuring the government for a quick return to unfettered private enterprise.

CSO: 4400/71

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

NEW PHONE CODES RELEASED--Riyadh, Oct. 19--Saudi Telephone has added two numbers to its list of special codes. The numbers allow residents emergency access to appropriate departments and agencies. The code number "930" has been introduced Kingdom-wide for the use of telex customers who need to report troubles to Saudi Telex. The "914" special service also has been introduced to enable subscribers to report faults with their automatic mobile telephone service, a Saudi Telephone spokesman said. Regarding the "930" code, Saudi Telephone's modern switching equipment automatically converts the three-digit service code to the appropriate seven-digit Saudi Telex number. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 20 Oct 81 p 2]

CSO: 4400/70

SUDAN

BRIEFS

FORCE AGAINST STUDENTS URGED--Khartoum, 17 Nov (INA)--Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, Sudanese first vice president and defense minister, has attacked Khartoum University students, calling them "a minority of renegades." At a press conference last night, he said what happened at Khartoum University should be a subject for reflection. He warned that the university atmosphere would change and that "we should not hasten events." In a strongly worded editorial today, AL-SAHFAH urged the use of force against the students, adding that what happened at the university "tolls the alarm." [Text] [JN171126 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Nov 81]

CSO: 4504/92

SYRIA

BRIEFS

CLASHES IN ALEPOO--Information received by the Voice of Lebanon Radio indicates that during ceremonies marking the anniversary of the corrective movement on 16 November, an armed man hurled a handgrenade at the governor of Aleppo, Nuhad al-Qadi, as he was passing in his car near the al-Shaykh Taha Bridge. His driver and two aides were killed while the governor miraculously escaped. The hurler of the grenade then attempted suicide by firing at himself with a pistol. As a result, the security atmosphere became tense in the area. The tension soon spread to al-Jumayliyah and Qabr Hananu areas where clashes occurred between the security forces and the Muslim Brotherhood. A number of persons were killed or wounded from both sides. Moreover, the special units have detained about 100 suspected persons and threw them in prisons after beating them up. In the Aleppo quarters, particularly in the al-Sabil quarter, tension and arrests are continuing coupled with bursts of gunfire to cover the security forces operations against the Muslim Brotherhood and their sympathizers. Intensive security barricades have been noticed in the township, particularly near the government departments. [Text] [NC201620 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Nov 81]

CLASHES TAKE PLACE--The Voice of Lebanon has received information about new incidents in Hamah, al-Raqqa and Aleppo in Syria which resulted in a number of casualties. In Hamah last Saturday the Syrian Army intercepted big demonstrations staged in protest against the People's Assembly elections. A clash ensued in which three demonstrators and an army soldier were killed and a number of others were wounded. In al-Raqqa, the Muslim Brotherhood killed the occupants of a military vehicle they ambushed. In Aleppo, the sounds of explosions and bursts of machine-gun fire have not ceased. Military patrols never leave the streets. [Text] [NC162042 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Nov 81]

PAYMENT FOR LEBANON WITHDRAWAL--Riyadh, 13 Nov (MENA)--Syria has asked the Arab Followup Committee at its meeting in Beirut on Saturday for the sum of 16.25 billion dollars as a pre-condition for its withdrawal from Lebanon, AL-YAMAMA magazine reported day. The Followup Committee made reservations regarding the sum, which it said is equal to Syria's state budget for the next 8 years, and the committee members expressed astonishment at Syria's request for such a big sum, quoting diplomatic sources close to the committee the weekly said. The Arab Followup Committee for resolving the Lebanon issue comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and the Arab League secretary general and is presided over by President Ilias Sarkis. [Text] [NC132255 Cairo MENA in English 2225 GMT 13 Nov 81]

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

GERMAN INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION--Krupp, the West German industrial giant, has expressed interest in participating in the industrialisation of the UAE. An eight-member delegation from Fried Krupp GmbH and its subsidiaries, on a visit to the UAE, expressed the group's readiness to develop its activities in the country. The group, whose interests range from shipbuilding and engineering to construction and petrochemicals, has already completed several contracts in the UAE and other Gulf states. According to Omar Arafat Deesi, foreign relations director of Dubai Chamber of Commerce, the projects in which the team expressed interest included refineries, petrochemicals and light industry. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English No 45, 14 Nov 81 p 66]

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